

Strategies in the cyclopentadienyl chemistry of p-block elements*

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Abstract: Synthetic strategies in the cyclopentadienyl (Cp) chemistry of the groups 13–15 elements, are based on the following phenomena: (1) low barriers for haptotropic and dyotropic shifts, for sigmatropic rearrangements, and for other types of Cp migration; (2) stabilization of elements in their low-oxidation state by π -complexation; (3) tuning of steric and electronic effects by suitable ring substituents; and (4) easy homolytic and heterolytic cleavage of $\text{E}(\text{Cp})$ bonds. These strategies are applied to: (a) the formation of a Si_2Me_4 doubly bridged dicyclopentadienyl cobalt complex, (b) the chemistry of half-sandwich $[\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5\text{Ga}]$ and sandwich $[(\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5)_2\text{Si}]$ complexes, (c) the formation of P_6 , (d) the deposition of Al, Ga, Si, Ge, and As from respective Cp-E precursor molecules, and (e) the “dynamic covalent chemistry” in ferrocenylgallium(III) compounds.

INTRODUCTION

Shortly after the fundamental discovery of transition-metal compounds containing π - or σ -bound cyclopentadienyl (Cp) ligands [1,2], structurally comparable compounds with p-block elements as central units have been described, namely stannocene, $\text{Sn}(\pi\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)_2$ [3], and trialkyl(cyclopentadienyl)silanes, $\text{R}_3\text{Si}(\sigma\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)$ [4]. As a result of many experimental and theoretical studies from the last decades, the Cp chemistry of p-block elements is meanwhile well understood. It is the aim of this article to describe basic features of structure, bonding, and reactivity of Cp compounds of groups 13–15 elements and to extract from this information Cp-specific phenomena, which have become important in synthetic strategies.

π -CYCLOPENTADIENYL COMPLEXES

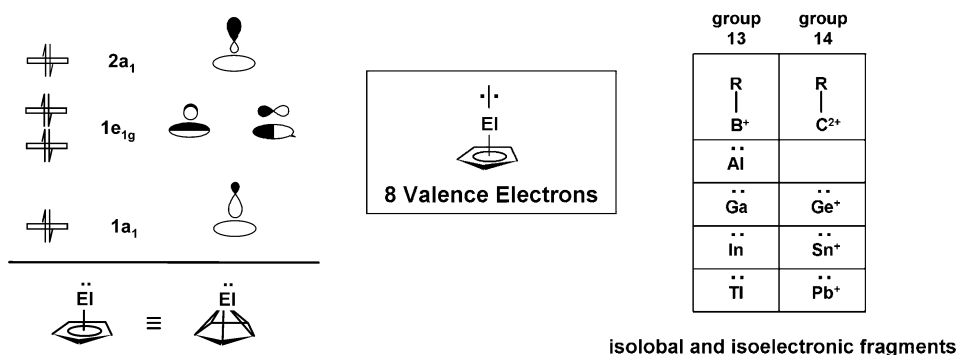
π -Cyclopentadienyl complexes of p-block elements have been described in detail in recent reviews [5–8]. Concerning a qualitative picture of structure and bonding, electron-counting, and the octet rule may be used for classification. In each class of π -complexes, the respective p-block element fragments are isoelectronic and isolobal, and the number of valence electrons (VEs) in a π -cyclopentadienyl fragment always corresponds to that of a Cp radical (5 electrons).

Half-sandwich complexes

In the group of half-sandwich complexes, Cp compounds with 8, 10, and 12 VEs have to be discussed. As described in Scheme 1, the 8 VE situation corresponds to a η^5 -structure, in which all 5 Cp-centered

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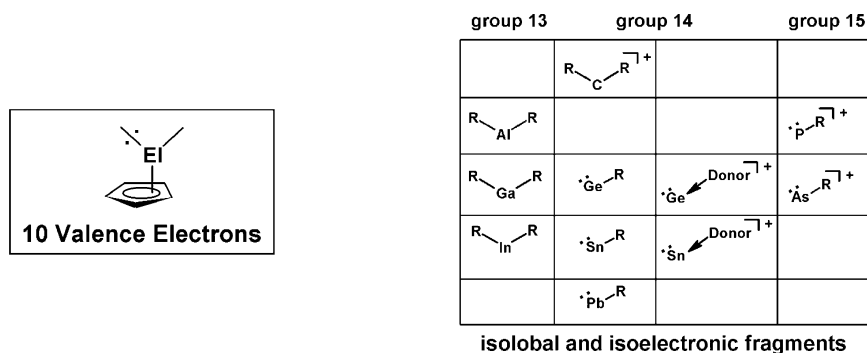
electrons are involved in bonding to the EI fragment. According to the MO-based rules of Mingos, Rudolph, and Williams, these half-sandwich compounds are described as nido-clusters.



Scheme 1

In the class of half-sandwich complexes of p-block elements, it is strategically important that these elements can be stabilized in their low-oxidation state. A breakthrough in the chemistry of group 13 elements was the preparation of $\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5\text{Al(I)}$ and $\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5\text{Ga(I)}$ in the group of Schnöckel [9,10]. These compounds have been obtained by the reaction of metastable Al(I)Cl or Ga(I)Cl solutions with Me_5C_5 transfer agents. More convenient synthetic routes have been described some years later [11,12]. A very recent review informs about the synthesis, structure, and chemistry of the pentamethylcyclopentadienyl (Cp^*) complexes of the monovalent group 13 elements [13]. The chemistry is dominated by the homolytic and heterolytic $\text{Cp}^*\text{-EI}$ bond cleavage, by the donor function of the EI-centered lone-pair, and by a carbene-like reactivity. The application of Cp^*Al and of Cp^*Ga as ligands in transition-metal chemistry turns out to be very promising [13].

The 10 VE situation requires a $\eta^{2/3}$ -structure, as described in Scheme 2; only three of the five Cp electrons are involved in the bonding to the EI fragment. This bonding situation is documented for the solid state of several compounds by X-ray crystal structure investigations [5]. In solution, such compounds are highly fluxional due to fast haptotropic rearrangements, even at low temperatures.



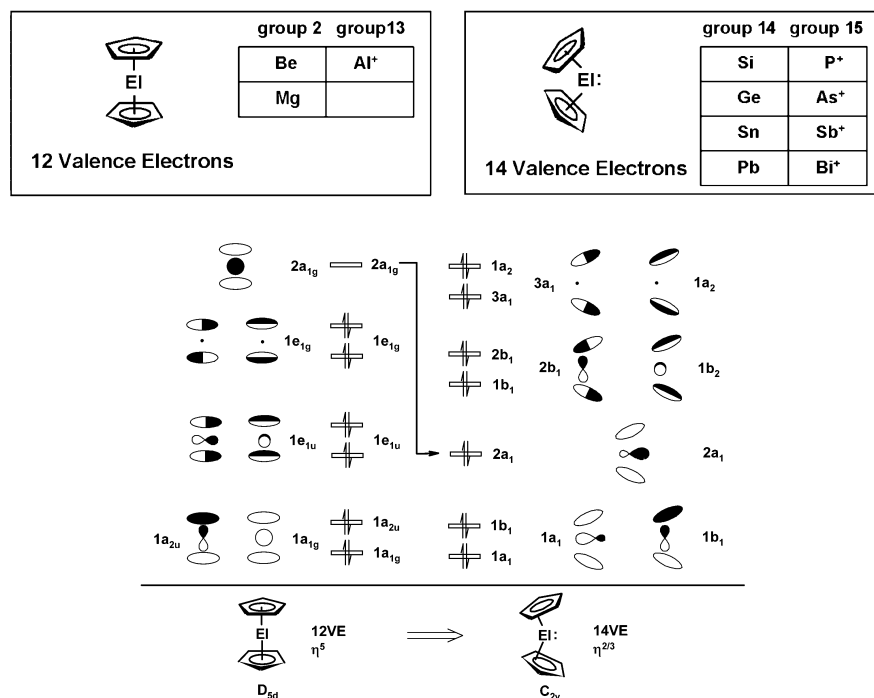
Scheme 2

The qualitative character of a bonding concept based on electron-counting implies that there exist several exceptions, especially in the Cp chemistry of the group 13 elements (e.g., the structures of $\text{H}_5\text{C}_5\text{GaEt}_2$ [14], $(\text{Me}_3\text{H}_2\text{C}_5)_3\text{Al}$ [15], and $(\text{H}_5\text{C}_5)_2\text{AlMe}$ [15]). Of course, much better understanding of structure and bonding is gained with the help of high-level calculations.

In the class of Cp-EI compounds with 12 VEs, the electron-counting does not help to predict the structure. Some compounds prefer a π - and others a σ -structure. The transition from σ - to π -structures is nicely documented by X-ray crystal structure investigations in the series of the comparable compounds $[(\text{Me}_2\text{HC})_4\text{HC}_5]\text{EI}\text{Cl}_2$ (EI=P,As,Sb,Bi) [16]. Once again, such compounds are highly fluxional in solution.

Sandwich complexes

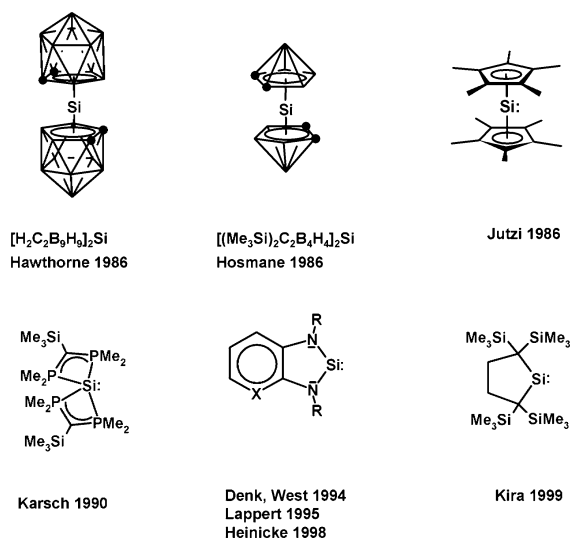
The bonding in sandwich complexes with 12 and 14 VEs is described in Scheme 3 on the basis of electron-counting rules and MO schemes. It is evident from these descriptions that two electron pairs remain in nonbonding situations in the 12 VE species and also in the 14 VE species; in the last series, the so called "lone pair" of the groups 14 or 15 element corresponds to the $2a_1$ orbital, and the bent $\eta^{2/3}$ -structure is energetically favored. In the series of the 12 VE species, the metallocenes of beryllium and of magnesium are included for comparison; in these sandwich complexes as well as in dicyclopentadienyl-aluminum cations, the structure is determined by covalent interactions between the Cp and the EI unit. Note that in the case of the comparable bis(pentamethylcyclopentadienyl)boronium cation, a η^5 -bonding to one Cp ring and a η^1 -bonding to the other one is energetically preferred [17,18].



Scheme 3

A breakthrough in the chemistry of the group 14 elements was the preparation of the sandwich complex decamethylsilicocene, $(\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5)_2\text{Si}$, containing divalent silicon [19]. Scheme 4 informs about the development of the π -complex chemistry of silicon and of the class of monomeric compounds containing divalent silicon as the central atom.

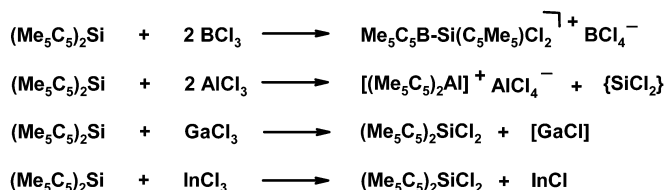
The sandwich complexes $(\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_9)_2\text{Si}$ [20], $[(\text{Me}_3\text{Si})_2\text{C}_2\text{B}_4\text{H}_4]_2\text{Si}$ [21], and $(\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5)_2\text{Si}$ [19], were all published in 1986. After the successful synthesis of $(\text{Me}_5\text{C}_5)_2\text{Si}$, the area of stable silicon(II) compounds has shown an interesting further development. Meanwhile, at least three classes of compounds are present in the literature: one class containing compounds with a hyper-coordinated



Scheme 4

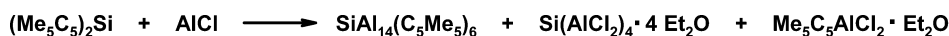
silicon center—(Me₅C₅)₂Si [19] and [Me₂P-C(SiMe₃)-PMe₃]₂Si [22]—and two classes containing compounds with dicoordinated silicon centers—R₂Si [23,24]—(see Scheme 4).

Synthesis, structure, bonding, and chemistry of decamethylsilicocene are described in detail in a very recent review [25]. This compound shows the reactivity of a nucleophilic silylene due to the fact that the π-bonded Cp* ligands easily rearrange to σ-bonded substituents. The migratory aptitude and the leaving group character of the Cp* units (see general discussion in later sections) are the reason for sometimes rather surprising reaction pathways. For illustration, the reaction of (Me₅C₅)₂Si with the group 13 element trichlorides is presented in Scheme 5: Cp* transfer is observed in the reactions with BCl₃ and AlCl₃, and reduction takes place in the reactions with GaCl₃ and InCl₃ [26].



Scheme 5

Another illustrative example for a surprising reaction pathway is given in Scheme 6. The unique cluster compound SiAl₁₄(C₅Me₅)₆ is formed in the reaction of (Me₅C₅)₂Si with a metastable Al(I)Cl solution [27].

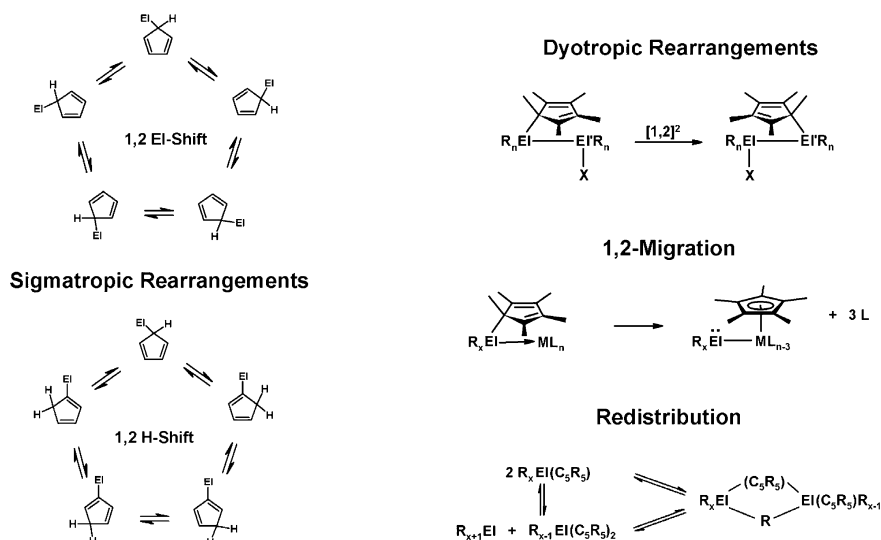


Scheme 6

σ-CYCLOPENTADIENYL COMPOUNDS

A rather weak carbon-element bond is a characteristic feature of the σ-cyclopentadienyl(Cp)compounds of the groups 13–15 elements. As a result, several types of migrating processes are observed; they are shown in Scheme 7 and include sigmatropic rearrangements, dyotropic rearrangements, 1,2-migration

and redistribution reactions. It will be demonstrated that one can make use of the migratory aptitude of Cp-EI compounds in synthetic strategies.

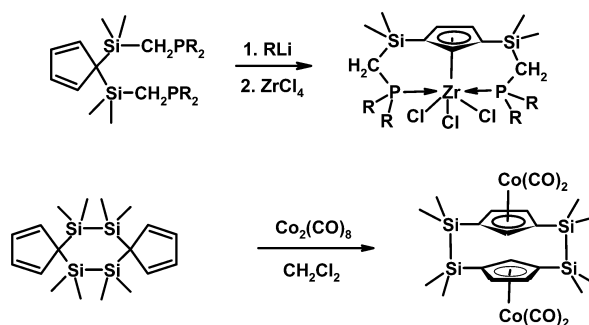


Scheme 7

Sigmatropic rearrangements

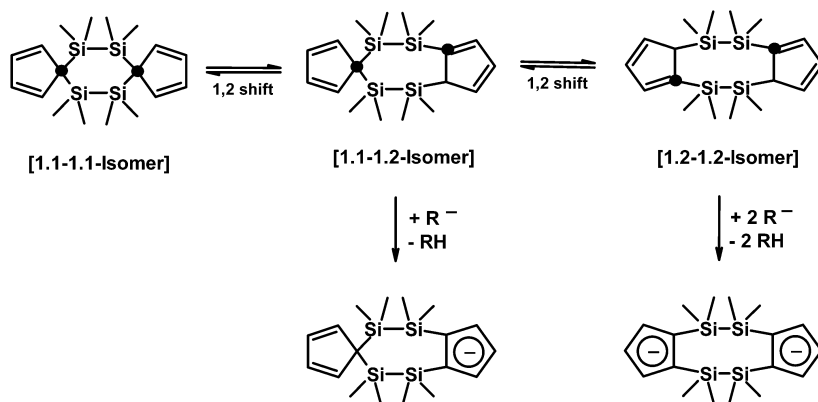
The fluxionality of σ -Cp-EI compounds on the basis of 1,2EI- and 1,2H-shifts has been discussed in the literature in detail [28] and seems to be well understood. Cyclopentadienylsilicon compounds have been intensively studied concerning their fluxional behavior in the context with their application as ligands or as ligand precursors in transition-metal chemistry. The regioselective Si-C bond formation allows the preparation of tailor-made Cp ligands [29]; this is demonstrated with two illustrative examples, which are depicted in Scheme 8.

In Fryzuk's work, the 1,1-disilyl substituted cyclopentadiene $C_5H_4[SiMe_2(CH_2PR_2)]_2$ is regioselectively transformed to the 1,3-disilyl substituted lithium cyclopentadienide, which after reaction with $ZrCl_4$ gives the corresponding zirconium complex [30]. In our work, the twofold disilanyl bridged dicyclopentadiene $[C_5H_4(Si_2Me_4)]_2$ reacts regioselectively with $Co_2(CO)_8$ to a "paracyclopentadienylophane" complex, in which two $CpCo(CO)_2$ units are connected by two disilanyl bridges [31].



Scheme 8

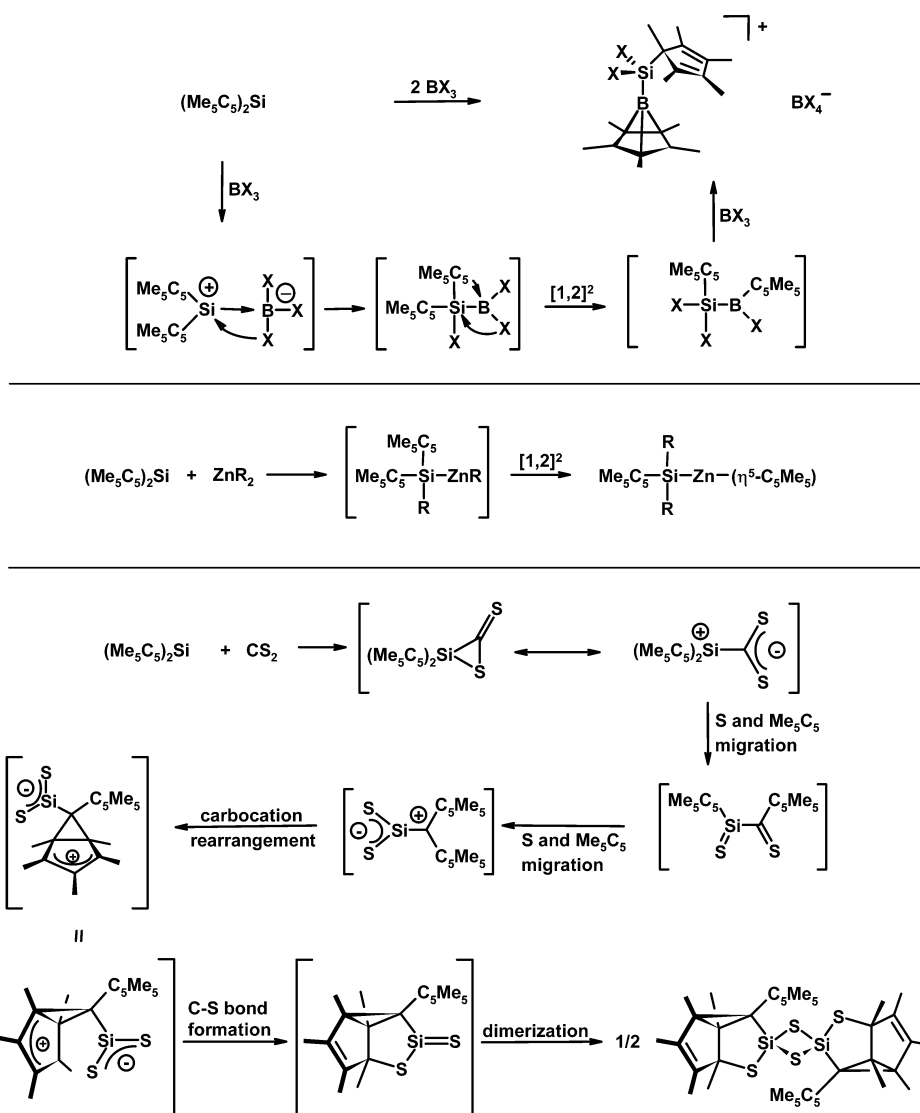
The stepwise silatropic processes in $[(C_5H_4(Si_2Me_4))_2]$ are described in Scheme 9. The deprotonated 1,1-1,2-isomer as well as the doubly deprotonated 1,2-1,2-isomer are useful ligands in transition-metal chemistry [32]. So far, the 1,3-1,3-isomer could only be generated in the form of the neutral $Co(CO)_2$ -complex and not in the form of the corresponding salt.



Scheme 9

Dyotropic rearrangements

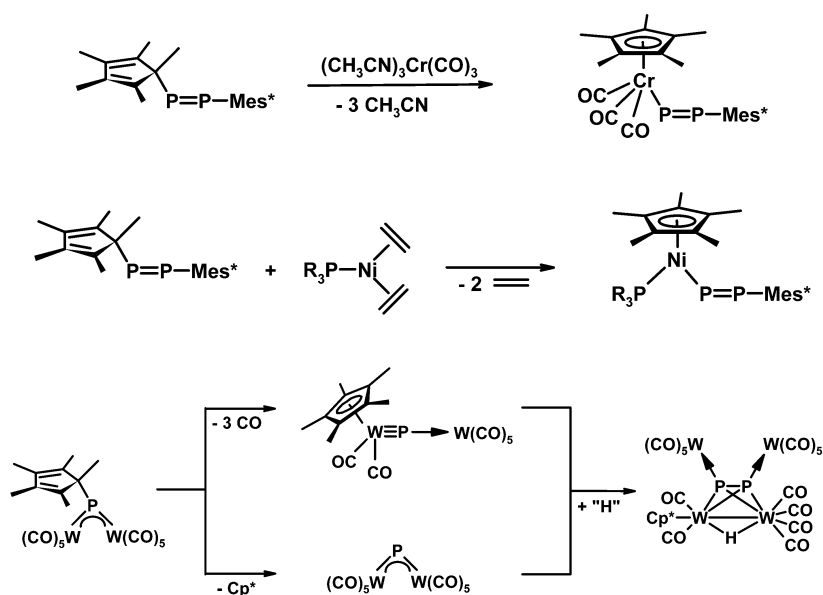
A dyotropic rearrangement is an uncatalyzed process in which two σ -bonds simultaneously migrate intramolecularly. We have not performed detailed mechanistic studies, so we refer to this process in a more general way with the term $[1,2]^2$, indicating two 1,2-migrations. In Scheme 10, three examples from decamethylsilicocene (Cp^*_2Si) chemistry are described, where $[1,2]^2$ -migrations are involved in the reaction sequence. In the first example, a Cp^* group migrates from silicon to boron and a halogen substituent from boron to silicon [26]. The second example describes a Si- Cp^*/Zn -alkyl interchange [33]. In the final reaction sequence, two steps are involved with Si- Cp^*/C -S interchange processes; the result of the reaction of Cp^*_2Si with CS_2 is rather surprising [34].



Scheme 10

1,2-Migration

The “1,2-migration” process is understood as the transformation of a transition-metal complex containing a Cp-substituted group 15 element compound as neutral ligand into a η^5 -Cp transition-metal complex possessing a covalent E1-transition-metal bond. Such migrations rely on the weakness of the Cp-E1 bond and are often observed in the chemistry of Cp*-substituted phosphorus compounds [5]. Typical examples are shown in Scheme 11. Thus, the diphosphene $\text{Cp}^*\text{P}=\text{PMe}^*$ reacts with $(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_3\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_3$ or with $\text{R}_3\text{PNi}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)_2$ to give the chromio- and the nickela-substituted diphosphenes $\text{Cp}^*(\text{CO})_3\text{Cr-P}=\text{PMe}^*$ and $\text{Cp}^*(\text{PR}_3)\text{Ni-P}=\text{PMe}^*$, respectively [35,36]. The phosphinidene complex $\text{Cp}^*\text{P}[\text{W}(\text{CO})_5]_2$ reacts by thermal activation to the cluster compound $[(\text{CO})_5\text{W-P}]_2$ [$\text{Cp}^*(\text{CO})_2(\text{H})\text{W}[\text{W}(\text{CO})_4]$]. The complexes $\text{Cp}^*(\text{CO})_2\text{W}=\text{P}[\text{W}(\text{CO})_5]$ and $\text{P}[\text{W}(\text{CO})_5]_2$ are formed as reactive intermediates, which combine under uptake of a hydrogen atom, presumably from the solvent [37]. The latter intermediate arises by homolytic cleavage of a $\text{Cp}^*\text{-P}$ bond (vide infra) [5].



Scheme 11

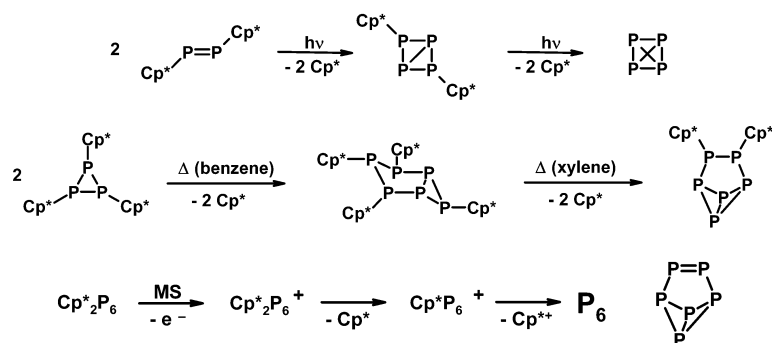
Redistribution reactions

Cp-ligand exchange reactions are often observed in the chemistry of the heavier groups 13–15 elements. In group 13 element chemistry it depends on the type of the Cp substituent, on the nature of the organic group R, and on the phase (solid, liquid, solution), whether a heteroleptic compound of the type CpEIR_2 exists as a single compound or undergoes a series of ligand redistribution reactions to form a mixture of CpEIR_2 , Cp_2EIR , Cp_3EI , and EIR_3 compounds. Thus, ligand redistribution can be exploited as a synthetic tool. This phenomenon has been studied in detail in aluminum and gallium chemistry and has been described in very recent publications [15,38,39].

Homolytic Cp-EI bond cleavage

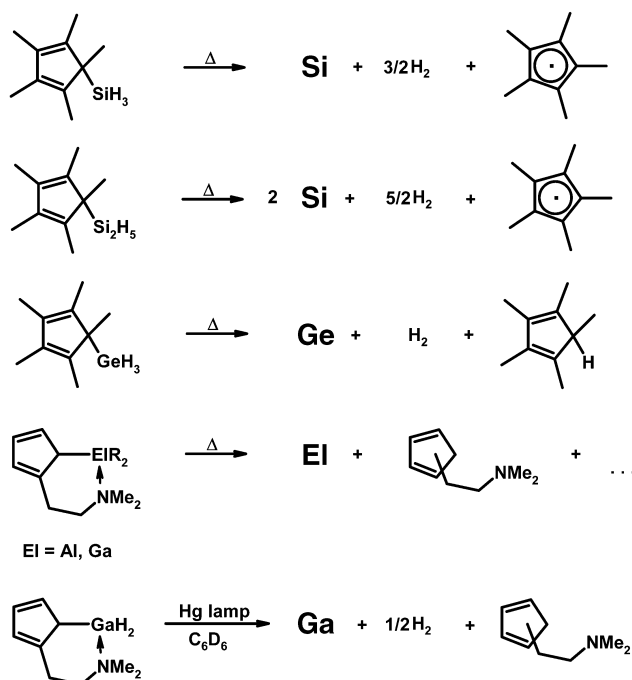
The easy thermally and photochemically initiated Cp-EI bond cleavage has been used as a strategy to prepare novel types of compounds and to deposit groups 13–15 elements in thin film or related technologies [5]. Some examples are presented in Schemes 12 and 13. Irradiation of the pentamethylcyclopentadienyl (Cp^*)-substituted diphosphene Cp^*_2P_2 led to the butterfly compound Cp^*_2P_4 and finally to the P_4 molecule [40]. The Cp^* -substituted cyclotriphosphane Cp^*_3P_3 was converted to the bicyclic hexaphosphane Cp^*_4P_6 by thermal treatment in benzene solution; the latter compound could be transferred to the tricyclic hexaphosphane Cp^*_2P_6 in boiling xylene [41]. The dihydrobenzvalene structure of this compound initiated further cleaving reactions with the aim to prepare a novel allotrope of phosphorus, namely P_6 . Finally, this experiment could be successfully performed under special mass spectrometric conditions (neutralization-reionization technique) (Scheme 12) [42].

Silicon and germanium compounds with pentamethylcyclopentadienyl and also partially methylated cyclopentadienyl substituents have been used in the CVD (chemical vapor deposition) process for the preparation of silicon- and germanium-containing materials [43–45]. An only low carbon content is the result of a rather selective EI-C(Cp^*) bond cleavage. The decomposition pathways have been studied by in situ mass spectrometry. In the case of the pentamethylcyclopentadienyl-substituted substrates, the compounds pentamethylcyclopentadiene and tetramethylfulvene are the sole organic decomposition products.



Scheme 12

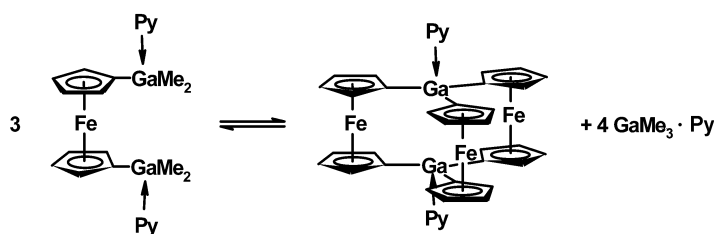
Dimethylaminoethyl-cyclopentadienyl compounds of aluminum and gallium have been used as precursors for the deposition of thin films of Al and Ga, respectively (Scheme 13) [46,47]. The dimethylamino group prevents oligomerization by an intramolecular coordination to the group 13 element. Interestingly, the protonated Cp-substituent is the main organic product regained after the thermal decomposition process. The lability of the EI-C(Cp) bond is nicely demonstrated by the photochemical decomposition of the dihydrido gallium species $(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{H}_4\text{C}_5\text{GaH}_2$ in benzene solution [47].



Scheme 13

FERROCENYL GALLIUM(III) CHEMISTRY

The weakness of the C(ferrocenyl)-Ga bond is the reason for redistribution reactions in ferrocenylgallium(III) compounds, comparable to the situation in σ -cyclopentadienyl gallium(III) species (mentioned above). As exemplified in Scheme 14 for the case of the corresponding pyridine complexes, 1,1'-bis(dimethylgallyl)ferrocene can be transferred into trimethylgallium and the threefold ferrocene-1,1'-diyl-substituted digallium compound $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_2]_3\text{Ga}_2$, possessing a so-far-unknown “carousel”



Scheme 14

structure [48]. The twofold ferrocene-diyl substituted digallium compound $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)_2]_2(\text{GaMe})_2$ is an isolable intermediate. The observed reversibility of this reaction sequence presumably is a prerequisite for the formation of the carousel structure. Thus, ferrocenylgallanes, and more generally also other ferrocenyl-groups 13–15 element compounds, might play an important role in a strategy called “dynamic covalent chemistry” [49].

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