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Intramolecular Phosphine Attack on a Coordinated Alkyne Ligand in $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$. Characterization of the Zwitterionic Hydrocarbyl Complex



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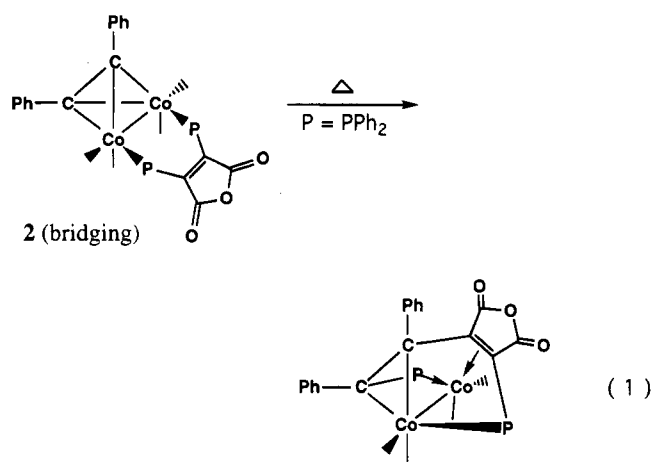
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Summary: The chelating diphosphine complex $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ (**1**) gives the zwitterionic hydrocarbyl-bridged compound $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-PhC}=\text{C}(\text{H})\text{PPh}_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})]$ (**3**) in refluxing 1,2-dichloroethane. Binuclear **3** is formed by a regioselective attack of one of the PPh_2 moieties on the terminal alkyne carbon. The hydrocarbyl complex has been isolated and characterized in solution by IR and NMR spectroscopy. The solid-state structure of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-PhC}=\text{C}(\text{H})\text{PPh}_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})]$ has been determined by X-ray diffraction analysis, which confirms the identity of the eight-electron hydrocarbyl ligand in **3**. This work represents the first example of an intramolecular phosphine addition to a coordinated alkyne to give a $\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1$ -hydrocarbyl moiety.

Examples of PR_3 attack on a transition-metal-coordinated alkyne ligand to afford a zwitterionic complex that contains a $\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1$ -hydrocarbyl moiety are exceedingly rare. The only known example involves the reaction between $\text{CpRh}(\text{CO})(\text{PMe}_3)$ and $\text{Os}(\text{CO})_4(\eta^2\text{-HC}\equiv\text{CH})$, which yields $\text{CpRhOs}(\text{CO})_3(\mu\text{-CO})[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{-HCCH}(\text{PMe}_3)]$, presumably as a result of an intermolecular PMe_3 attack on the acetylene ligand.^{1–3}

We have recently reported that thermolysis of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CPh})$ (**2**, chelating isomer; $\text{bma} = (\text{Ph}_2\text{P})\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})$) in 1,2-dichloroethane results in an initial isomerization to give the corresponding bma-bridged complex; this latter isomer then undergoes an alkyne–diphosphine ligand coupling and formation of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-(Z)-Ph}_2\text{PC}(\text{Ph})=\text{C}(\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O}))]$ (eq 1).⁴ However, while examining the reactivity of the corresponding phenylacetylene complex $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ (**1**), we observed a different course of reactivity in the thermolysis of **1**, involving the attack of a PPh_2 moiety on the terminal alkyne carbon to give the new complex Co_2



($\text{CO})_4[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-PhC}=\text{C}(\text{H})\text{PPh}_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})]$ (**3**). Whereas the insertion chemistry of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-alkyne})$ ⁵ and the nucleophilic addition reactions to $[\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_6(\text{propargyl})]^+$ ⁶ are well-documented, the reactivity of the coordinated alkyne ligand with a coordinated diphosphine is without precedent.

During the course of our studies on the reactivity of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_6(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ with the diphosphine ligand bma, we have prepared and isolated the bma-substituted complex $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ (**1**). Spectroscopic data indicate that the ancillary bma adopts a chelating mode in **1**. Our initial desire was to explore the reactivity of the coordinated bma and phenylacetylene ligands as part of our interest in the P–C cleavage chemistry exhibited by the bma ligand.^{4,7} Refluxing a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-PhC}\equiv\text{CH})$ ⁸ (chelating isomer) leads to the formation of the zwitterionic hydrocarbyl complex $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4[\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-PhC}=\text{C}(\text{H})\text{PPh}_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{PPh}_2)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OC}(\text{O})]$, in an isolated yield of 70%.⁹ When the reaction is monitored by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy, the formation of the bridging bma-substituted complex of **1** (<2%) is observed (eq 2), and on the basis of the chemistry observed with the related

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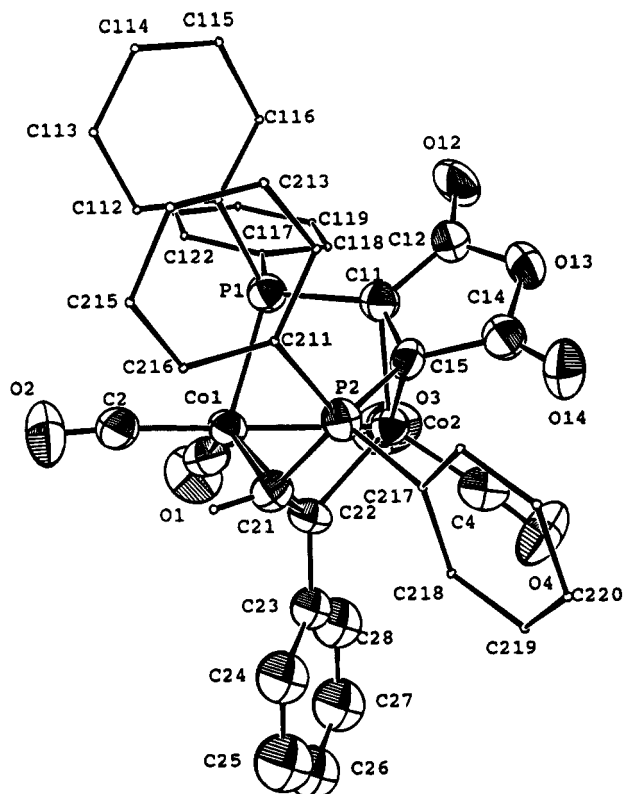
(3) For a report on the attack of PMe_3 on mononuclear alkyne complexes, see: Hoffman, D. M.; Huffman, J. C.; Lappas, D.; Wierda, D. A. *Organometallics* 1993, 12, 4312 and references therein.

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acetylene ligand. This regioselective transformation gives rise to the first $\mu\text{-}\eta^2\text{:}\eta^1$ -hydrocarbyl ligand complex formed from an intramolecular P-ligand attack on a coordinated alkyne moiety. The zwitterionic nature of **3** requires a negative charge on Co(2) and a positive charge on P(2); the latter center is best described as a phosphonium center, given the tetrasubstituted nature of the P(2) atom. Of interest here is the utilization of the maleic anhydride bond as an η^2 -donor ligand in the product, which allows each cobalt center to achieve a coordinatively saturated state.

In comparison to the recently reported work of Takats et al.,¹ which has presented evidence for the formal migration of PMe_3 to a coordinated ethyne ligand, our observation of the formation of **3** from **1** provides the first intramolecular example for such a P-ligand attack sequence. Given the multidentate nature of the bma ligand (i.e., two phosphine and one alkene groups), it is unreasonable to consider a scheme for the formation of **3** that involves the total dissociation of the bma ligand from **1**. Scheme 1 outlines the likely sequence of events leading to **3**, starting from the transient bridging isomer

of **1** and invoking a partially dissociated bma ligand as an intermediate. Support for such a scheme derives from related work from our laboratories that has demonstrated the ease by which the bma ligand can dissociate to an η^1 -bma ligand during ligand isomerization and activation reactions.^{4,7}

The reactivity of other coordinated alkynes in $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_4(\text{bma})(\mu\text{-alkyne})$ complexes is being examined, with the aim of elucidating the electronic and steric factors that are operative in the formation of zwitterionic hydrocarbyl-substituted complexes related to **3**.

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Supplementary Material Available: Tables of crystal data, atomic positional parameters and isotropic thermal parameters, bond lengths and bond angles for **3** (16 pages).

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