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Palladium(0)-Alkene Bis(triarylphosphine) Complexes as Catalyst Precursors for the Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene

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The fluoros complex $[\text{Pd}(0)(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})\}_3)_2(\text{MA})]$ (MA = maleic anhydride) was synthesized and characterized by its NMR spectra. Together with the nonfluorous complexes $[\text{Pd}(0)(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{alkene})]$ (alkene = C_2H_4 , $(\text{NC})_2\text{C}=\text{C}(\text{CN})_2$, $\text{NCC}(\text{H})=\text{C}(\text{H})\text{CN}$, MA, or benzoquinone) these were evaluated as catalyst precursors in the methoxycarbonylation of styrene. The nonfluorous C_2H_4 and MA complexes gave the highest conversions (the turnover number (TON) was 120; the (average) turnover frequency (TOF) amounted to 80 h^{-1}). The fluoros complex gave a significantly lower conversion (TON about 38; TOF 26 h^{-1}) than its nonfluorous counterpart, which is caused by a lower stability of the fluoros complex under the reaction conditions.

Introduction

Zerovalent palladium complexes with only alkenes are well-established nowadays as starting materials in modern organometallic chemistry. Examples include homoleptic complexes such as $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\text{dba}]$,¹ $[\text{Pd}(\text{COD})_2]$,² $[\text{Pd}(\text{ethene})_3]$,² and $[\text{Pd}_2(1,6\text{-diene})_3]$ ³ and mixed alkene complexes such as $[\text{Pd}(1,6\text{-diene})(\text{ethene})]$,³ $[\text{Pd}(\text{norbornadiene})(\text{MA})]$ ⁴ (MA = maleic anhydride), and $[\text{Pd}(\text{COD})(\text{MA})]$.⁵ These complexes, especially $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\text{dba}]$, serve as important starting materials for the synthesis of zerovalent palladium complexes bearing additional ligands such as phosphines and nitrogen ligands. Their stability is usually governed by a subtle interplay between the electron-donating and electron-withdrawing properties of the ligands and the metal center. Especially diimine ligands, such as the 1,4-diaza-

1,3-butadiene (DAB) and BIAN ligands, have proven to be successful for the synthesis of a variety of palladium-(0)-alkene complexes.^{6–10} Recently, Kluwer et al. reported the synthesis of such complexes having monodentate nitrogen ligands.⁵ The complexes with diimine ligands are good catalysts for a number of reactions, such as the selective hydrogenation of alkynes to *Z*-alkenes.^{8,11}

Palladium(0)-alkene complexes with phosphines as ligands are also well known. Examples include complexes with monophosphines such as $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{alkene})]$, in which alkene represents MA, tetracyanoethylene (TCNE),⁷ or C_2H_4 ,¹² $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}\{n\text{-Bu}\}_3)_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$,¹³ $[\text{Pd}(1\text{-(Ph}_2\text{P)}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-2-CH=NR)}(\text{alkene})]$,¹⁴ and $[\text{Pd}(\text{P}\{\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}\}_3)_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$ ¹⁵ as well as complexes with diphosphines such as $[\text{Pd}(\text{bis}\{\text{diphenylphosphino}\}\text{ethane})(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$,¹³ $[\text{Pd}(\text{bis}\{1,3\text{-diisopropylphosphino}\}\text{propane})(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$,¹⁶ and $[\text{Pd}$ -

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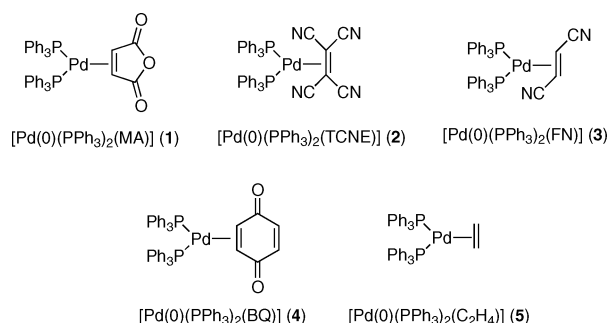
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Chart 1. Palladium(0)-Alkene Bis(triphenylphosphine) Complexes 1–5^a

^a Legend: MA = maleic anhydride; TCNE = tetracyanoethylene; FN = fumaronitrile; BQ = benzoquinone.

(4,5-bis((diphenylphosphino)methyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane)(C₂H₄).¹⁷ They have been proposed as intermediates in several catalytic reactions and are sometimes used as catalyst precursors. Well-known examples of the latter use are the compounds [Pd(0)(P–N)-(alkene)] (alkene = fumaronitrile or dimethyl fumarate, P–N = 1-(Ph₂P)C₆H₄-2-CH=NR (R = CMe₃ or C₆H₄-OMe-4)), which have been used as precursor complexes in the methoxycarbonylation of alkynes.¹⁴

We have recently investigated the use of [Pd(OAc)₂(PAr₃)₂] complexes as precursors in the methoxycarbonylation of styrene.¹⁸ In these studies one of the complexes used was the so-called fluororous complex [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂]. One of the problems with the fluororous complex is its low activity and long induction period. We were therefore interested in the development of other palladium phosphine complexes that could give a more direct entry into the catalytic cycle of the methoxycarbonylation process. A viable option, we reasoned, would be the use of palladium(0)-alkene complexes. Here we report on the synthesis of a number of palladium(0)-alkene complexes with nonfluorous monodentate phosphines and one complex with fluororous monodentate phosphines and their application as catalyst precursors in the methoxycarbonylation of styrene.

Results

Synthesis of Palladium(0)-Alkene Complexes. A number of palladium(0) complexes with different alkenes were synthesized (Chart 1). Known complexes **1**, **2**,⁷ **4**,¹⁹ and **5**¹² were synthesized according to published methods in good yields and purity. Known complexes **3** and **6** were prepared using the method depicted in eqs 1 and 2 (Scheme 1),⁷ which led to increased yields in comparison with the literature method.⁶ Crystals suitable for single-crystal X-ray structure determination were obtained from a concentrated solution of complex **6** in acetone. Its structure is given in Figure 1, and the relevant bond lengths and angles are compiled in Table 1.

The complex shows the Y-shaped trigonal-planar geometry that has also been previously observed for related complexes such as [palladium(0)(*N,N'*-diphenyl-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-diimine-*N,N'*)-(fumaronitrile)]²⁰ and [palladium(II)(Me)₂(2-(phenylimino)-3-(2,6-dimethylphenylimino)-1,7,7-trimethylbicyclo-[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-diylidene)].²¹ The Pd–N (2.153(5) Å) and Pd–C distances (2.045(5) Å) are also in agreement with previously reported values.²⁰ The N(1)–Pd(1)–N(1a) bite angle of 76.32(12)° is somewhat smaller than values known in the literature for related complexes (values of 77.2–77.5° are reported^{20–22}). As expected, upon coordination of the alkene, an elongation of the C=C bond distance (1.417(6) Å) when compared with the free ligand (1.249(10) Å)²³ and a concomitant expected shortening of the C–CN bonds (1.435(7) Å) when compared with the free ligand (1.480(8) Å) are observed.²³ Judging from the C–C angles in the alkene ligand (119.1(5)°), the olefinic carbon atoms are sp² hybridized.

NMR Studies on Palladium-Alkene Complexes 1, 3, and 5. Complexes **1** and **3** have been characterized previously by ¹H NMR spectroscopy and elemental analysis, whereas **5** has been characterized only by elemental analysis. In the present study we also recorded their ¹³C{¹H} and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra (for full data see Experimental Section) and for **5** also its ¹H NMR spectrum. For complexes **1** and **3** the region of the spectra where the alkene ¹³C resonances were observed is given in Figure 2 (**3** on the left side, **1** on the right).

It is obvious from Figure 2 that the alkene carbon region for **1** and **3** shows somewhat different patterns. For both **1** and **3** the observed patterns are the X-part of an AA'X system. For **3** simulation of these signals (Figure 2, bottom left, using the WINDNMR program²⁴) showed that the observed multiplet structure corresponds to the X part of an AA'X pattern (A = ³¹P nucleus, A' = ³¹P nucleus) with no exchange processes involved.²⁵ When the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum was recorded while applying simultaneous ¹H- and ³¹P-decoupling, this multiplet pattern for the alkene carbon atoms collapsed to a singlet. This confirms that coupling of these alkene carbon atoms to phosphorus atoms, which are at the *cis*- and *trans*-position, respectively, causes the observed pattern. For complex **1** (with MA as the alkene), a different pattern was observed for the alkene carbon atoms in its ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum (Figure 2, top right). Simulation of this pattern (Figure 2, bottom right) showed that it is also the X part of an AA'X pattern, but now with exchange present between the A and A' sites.²⁶ Also for this compound application

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(26) For **1** the following values were used in the simulation of the alkene region: *J*_{AA'} = 11.0 Hz, *J*_{AX} = –6.1 Hz (*cis*-phosphine), *J*_{AX} = 28.7 Hz (*trans*-phosphine), *K*_{AA'} = 4.

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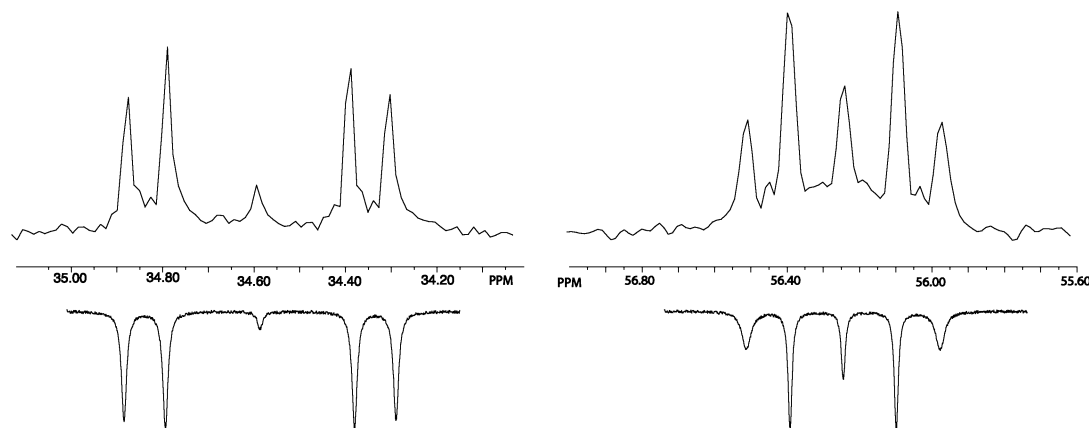
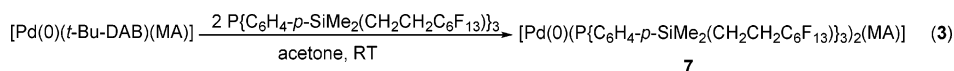
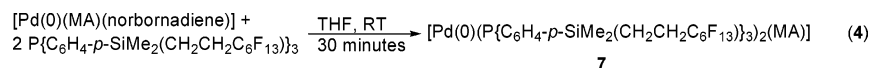


Figure 2. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75.5 MHz) spectra, alkene region, for **3** (left) and **1** (right). Observed spectra at the top, calculated spectra at the bottom.

Scheme 2. Synthesis of Complex 7, Starting from [Pd(0)(*t*-Bu-DAB)(MA)]



Scheme 3. Synthetic Route for Complex 7, Starting from [Pd(0)(MA)(norbornadiene)]



observed as singlets. The signals for ethene, either for free or coordinated ethene, were not observed even at this low temperature in the $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum. Decreasing the temperature beyond -60°C was not possible, because the complex precipitated from the solution upon further cooling. Its $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum showed in the whole temperature range two signals: a large broad singlet at 26.95 ppm (which sharpened at low temperatures), ascribed to complex **5**,³² and a minor singlet at 33.85 ppm. The latter signal could correspond to a zerovalent palladium complex with three (or four) phosphines, formed from the reaction of complex **5** with free PPh_3 , which is present because complex **5** had partly decomposed.

Synthesis of Fluorous Pd(0)-Alkene Complexes.

After having tested the complexes **1–5** in the methoxycarbonylation of styrene (vide infra) we decided to synthesize only the fluorinated versions of the most active complexes, i.e., the complexes with MA and ethene as the alkene. The synthesis of $[\text{Pd}(0)(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13}))_3)_2(\text{MA})]$ (**7**) was first attempted using the same route as has been used for complex **1** (Scheme 2).

Although formation of the desired complex was observed, as was evident from $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ and ^1H NMR spectra of the crude product after the same workup as for **1**, its ^1H NMR spectrum also showed the presence of free *t*-BuDAB. Because of similar solubilities of *t*-BuDAB and palladium complex **7** in the washing solvent (Et_2O), its removal was not possible. Several other methods, i.e., extraction with methanol and *n*-pentane at both ambient and low temperatures as well as removal of the *t*-BuDAB by sublimation, were tried. The first method gave some improvement in purity after several extractions (ca. 10% free *t*-BuDAB was left). However, because of the appreciable solubility of **7** in these solvents, even at low temperatures, a very low

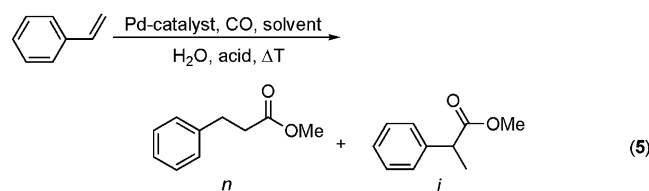
yield of the complex resulted. The second method cleanly removed the free *t*-BuDAB from the complex, but at the same time induced appreciable decomposition of the palladium complex, resulting in a low yield of the desired complex.

Because of these problems, the route recently developed by Kluwer et al.,⁵ which allowed for the synthesis of zerovalent palladium alkene complexes with monodentate nitrogen ligands, was used to obtain pure **7** in higher yields (eq 4, Scheme 3). Using this method, very pure **7** was obtained in an acceptable yield indeed. Its ^1H , $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$, and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra showed the expected signals for this compound, as well as those for the perfluoroalkyl chain in its $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ and ^{19}F NMR spectra. Furthermore, because of the presence of the fluorinated phosphines in complex **7**, it also shows appreciable solubility (more than 20 mg/mL) in apolar solvents such as *n*-hexane and Et_2O .

The synthesis of $[\text{Pd}(0)(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13}))_3)_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$ (**8**) was attempted following the same synthetic procedure as that for **5**.¹² Although the complex seemed to form, as judged by color changes of the reaction mixture, isolation of the compound appeared to be impossible. Precipitation by addition of Et_2O to the reaction mixture did not work, and neither did the use of several other solvents. Rapid formation of palladium black was observed once ethene was removed. Further efforts to prepare this compound were therefore abandoned.

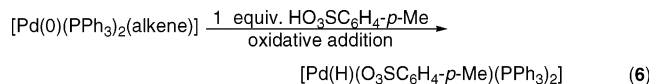
Catalysis. The compounds **1–5** were tested as precursors in the catalytic methoxycarbonylation of styrene (Scheme 4). To allow for comparison with our data on the use of $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ as the catalyst precursor,¹⁸ the same reaction conditions (such as palladium concentration, Pd:styrene, Pd:acid, and Pd: H_2O ratios) were applied in the present study with the palladium(0) precursors. The data for **1–5** and $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ are presented in Table 2.

(32) In toluene- d_8 the ^{31}P NMR spectrum of **5** showed one singlet at 27.47 ppm.

Scheme 4. General Reaction Scheme for Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene**Table 2. Results for Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene with 1–5 and [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂]^a**

entry	complex	conversion (%)	<i>i</i> : <i>n</i>
1	1	80	41:59
2	2	2	42:58
3	3	40	40:60
4	4	27	41:59
5	5	80	41:59
6	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂] ^b	>95	40:60

^a General conditions: [Pd] = 2 μmol/mL, Pd:styrene:HO₃SC₆H₄-*p*-Me (*p*-tsaH):H₂O = 1:150:30:600, solvent = MeOH/α,α',α''-trifluorotoluene, 1:1 (v/v), reaction time = 90 min, *T* = 80 °C, 30 bar CO. ^b Data taken from ref 18.

Scheme 5. Formation of a Palladium(II)-Hydride Species from a Palladium(0) Alkene Complex

Several observations can be made. The first one is that the conversion after 90 min is dependent on the nature of the alkene in the precursor and increases in the order TCNE < BQ < FN < MA, C₂H₄ < [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂]. With [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂] as precursor the highest conversion is obtained, while the results with either complex **1** or **5** as precursor compare quite favorably with the results obtained with the palladium(II) precursor. Apparently the *i*:*n* ratio is the same (within experimental error) for every complex used and independent of the nature of palladium starting precursor. This provides evidence that probably in all cases the same catalytic species is generated and present as the active species in solution. Although conclusive evidence is not available yet, a viable species that could be the starting point for catalysis is the palladium(II) hydride compound [Pd(H)(O₃SC₆H₄-*p*-Me)(PPh₃)₂]. Such a species has been proposed by others to be the actual precatalyst for this reaction³³ and is formed from the palladium(0) complexes via the reaction of the added acid with the palladium(0) complex (Scheme 5).^{34–36}

It is interesting to note that differences in color between the different catalyst precursors were observed

Table 3. Results for Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene with 1, 5, and [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂] at 60 °C^a

entry	complex	conversion (%)	<i>i</i> : <i>n</i>
1	1	54	62:38
2	5	63	63:37
3	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (PPh ₃) ₂] ^b	45	65:35

^a General conditions: [Pd] = 2 μmol/mL, Pd:styrene:HO₃SC₆H₄-*p*-Me (*p*-tsaH):H₂O = 1:150:30:600, solvent = MeOH/α,α',α''-trifluoro toluene, 1:1 (v/v), reaction time = 90 min, 30 bar CO. ^b Data taken from ref 18.

when they were dissolved in the reaction medium comprising MeOH/α,α',α''-trifluorotoluene, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, water, and styrene. Whereas for complexes **1** and **5** the color of the solution immediately turned orange-red, for **3** the solution became only slightly orange colored. For precursors **2** and **4** the solution stayed light yellow. This could indicate that from the different complexes different intermediates are formed in varying concentrations.

To see if a palladium-hydride species is indeed formed, we conducted a NMR experiment. A solution of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (3 equiv with respect to palladium) in MeOH-*d*₄ was added to complex **5**. The initial gray suspension became a clear dark red solution in about 1 min. After transfer to a NMR tube a ¹H NMR spectrum (at 500 MHz, ambient temperature) was recorded, showing the presence of a broad doublet centered at −6.88 ppm (²*J*(¹H–³¹P) = 175 Hz). This indicates that a palladium-hydride complex is formed with a *cis* bis-phosphine configuration.^{30,37} In its ³¹P-{¹H} NMR spectrum a broad singlet at 28.43 ppm was visible. When a ¹H{³¹P} NMR spectrum was measured, the broad doublet in the ¹H NMR spectrum collapsed to one broad singlet centered at −6.89 ppm.

For complexes **1** and **5** we observed that, after ca. 70 min reaction time, extensive decomposition of the catalyst to palladium black took place. Hence, we also performed catalysis with these two complexes at 60 °C instead of 80 °C, under otherwise identical conditions. Performing catalysis at a lower temperature would hopefully lead to less decomposition of the palladium complex and might also have a beneficial effect on the *i*:*n* ratio, as has already been shown previously.^{38,39} For comparison we also used the catalyst precursor [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂] at 60 °C. The results of the experiments are given in Table 3.

For all three complexes we see that the conversion is significantly decreased at this lower temperature. The two zerovalent palladium complexes, however, show a smaller decrease in activity when compared with [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂] (ca. 20–25% decrease for **1** and **5** vs 55% decrease in conversion for [Pd(OAc)₂(PPh₃)₂]). Furthermore, upon opening the autoclave after reaction the presence of palladium black was not observed. This indicates that at these lower temperatures the catalyst is much more stable.⁴⁰ The *i*:*n* ratio in all three experi-

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(40) The orange-red solution collected from the autoclave quickly turned dark-red/brown and gave palladium black deposition when exposed to air for a few minutes.

Table 4. Results for Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene with **7 and [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂] as the Precursor Complexes^a**

entry	complex	time (min)	conversion (%)	<i>i</i> : <i>n</i>
1	7	60	25	53:47
2	7	120	42	53:47
3	7	180	45	51:49
4	7	180	17 ^b	72:28
5	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (P{C ₆ H ₄ - <i>p</i> -SiMe ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₆ F ₁₃) ₃) ₂] ^c	60	17	54:46
6	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (P{C ₆ H ₄ - <i>p</i> -SiMe ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₆ F ₁₃) ₃) ₂] ^c	120	45	53:47
7	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (P{C ₆ H ₄ - <i>p</i> -SiMe ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₆ F ₁₃) ₃) ₂] ^c	180	68	53:47
8	[Pd(OAc) ₂ (P{C ₆ H ₄ - <i>p</i> -SiMe ₂ (CH ₂ CH ₂ C ₆ F ₁₃) ₃) ₂] ^c	180	20 ^b	70:30

^a General conditions: [Pd] = 2 μmol/mL, Pd:styrene:HO₃SC₆H₄-*p*-Me (*p*-tsaH):H₂O = 1:150:30:600, solvent = MeOH/trifluoro toluene, 1:1 (v/v), 30 bar CO, *T* = 80 °C. ^b At 60 °C. ^c Data taken from ref 18.

ments is different from those obtained in the experiments at 80 °C and displays a slightly higher selectivity toward the *branched* (*i*) product.

The new fluoros complex **7** was also tested as a possible precursor complex for the methoxycarbonylation of styrene, using the same conditions as described above. For comparison reasons results obtained previously with the complex [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂] are also given in Table 4.

It is obvious that although **7** can be used as a precursor for this catalytic reaction, the activity obtained was quite low, especially compared to the conversions obtained with complexes **1** and **5**. When we compare the data acquired for **7** with the results obtained for the complex [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂],¹⁸ in the first hour with complex **7** a higher conversion is obtained as compared to [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂]. After 2 h reaction time conversion and selectivity are the same for both complexes. Complex **7**, however, only shows a marginal increase in conversion (from 42 to 45%) after 3 h of reaction when compared with the fluoros palladium acetate complex (68% conversion after 180 min) at 80 °C. The selectivity for both complexes was the same within margin of error. This lower activity with **7** after more than 2 h reaction time is probably caused by extensive catalyst decomposition, which is also evident when the reaction mixture was visually inspected during catalysis. The initial orange-red solution present gradually lost its color during the progress of the reaction and the formation of palladium black was observed. When the autoclave contents were collected afterward, likewise a large amount of palladium black was present. Although this was also observed for the catalysts with PPh₃ as ligand, decoloration of the reaction medium and deposition of palladium black was only observed at the late stages of the reaction (after ca. 70 min). This means that the catalyst with the fluoros phosphines is less stable than the catalyst with PPh₃ under these conditions.

When catalysis with **7** was performed at 60 °C instead of 80 °C, some conversion was observed (entry 4 in Table 4), but this was low when compared to **1** and **5**. The catalyst, however, appeared to be more stable at this lower temperature: no decoloration of the reaction medium was observed and no palladium black formation was initially present when the autoclave was opened afterward.⁴⁰ When the reaction was performed at 60 °C, both **7** and [Pd(OAc)₂(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂]^c had almost the same activity and selectivity after 180 min reaction time.

Discussion

The ¹³C{¹H} NMR data of the different palladium-(0)-alkene complexes show distinct differences. For both **1** and **3** the patterns observed for the signals of the alkene carbon atoms correspond to the X part of an AA'X pattern, as was shown by simulations. The two patterns differed, however, from each other. From the observed ¹³C{¹H} NMR data of complex **3** and the simulation thereof we can conclude that no interconversion process is occurring. Since both =CH carbon atoms experience coupling to a *cis*- and a *trans*-phosphorus atoms, we observe their signal as the X part of an AA'X pattern, which in the absence of exchange processes gave the pattern as observed in the left side of Figure 2. For complex **1**, with maleic anhydride as the alkene, we have shown by simulation of the alkene part of the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum that this is the X part of an AA'X pattern with an exchange process present. With the current data, however, we cannot say which process is occurring.⁴¹ The exchange process leads to the observation of a more complicated multiplet pattern (right side of Figure 2).

This difference between complexes **1** and **3** is remarkable, since in the literature it has been reported that fumaronitrile and maleic anhydride have similar electron-withdrawing abilities, so that their coordinating strength is also the same.^{22,42,43} We would therefore expect similar resonance patterns for the alkene carbon atoms in their ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra. A reason could be that for maleic anhydride, which is a *cis*-alkene, rotation of the alkene around the palladium(C=C) bond is easier than for fumaronitrile (a *trans*-alkene). It has been reported by several researchers that rotation of the alkene around the metal(C=C) bond depends among others on the steric bulk at the metal center.^{41a,c,d} It has been shown that in certain cases only the complexes having a *cis*-alkene in their coordination sphere show rotational behavior of the alkene around the metal(C=C)

(41) In the literature several exchange processes for such complexes have been reported. One route is the dissociation/reassociation route, whereby the alkene dissociates from the metal center and then reassociates again; see ref 22. The other route is the rotation of the alkene around the palladium(C=C) bond. For some examples in the literature, see: (a) Gómez-de la Torre, F.; Jalón, F. A.; López-Agenjo, A.; Manzano, B. R.; Rodríguez, A.; Sturm, T.; Wassensteiner, W.; Martínez-Ripoll, M. *Organometallics* **1998**, *17*, 4634. (b) Manzano, B. R.; Jalón, F. A.; Gómez-de la Torre, F.; López-Agenjo, A. M.; Rodríguez, A. M.; Mereiter, K.; Wassensteiner, W.; Sturm, T. *Organometallics* **2002**, *21*, 789. (c) van Asselt, R.; Elsevier, C. J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1994**, *33*, 1521. (d) Albright, T. A.; Hoffmann, R.; Thibeault, J. C.; Thorn, D. L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1979**, *101*, 3801.

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C) bond. This could very well apply here as well, but further investigations would be necessary in order to be certain.

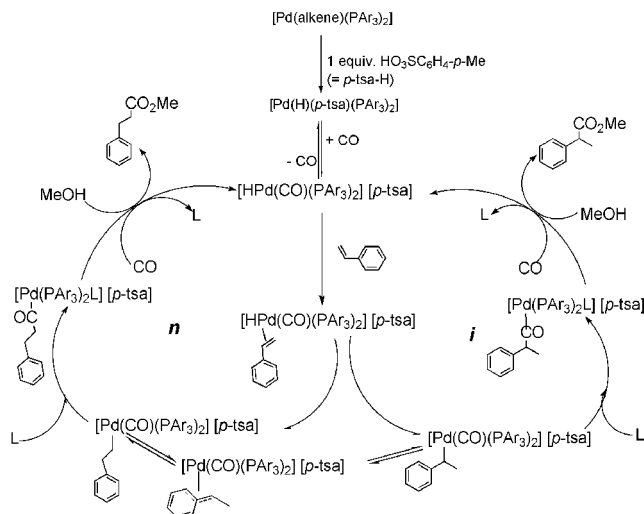
In the ^1H NMR spectrum (at ambient temperature) of the palladium ethene complex **5** we observed broad singlets for the alkene signal as well as for the signals of the PPh_3 groups. This is caused by the *intermolecular* exchange between free ethene in solution and coordinated ethene on the palladium center, as has been previously observed for the complex $[\text{Pd}(\text{diop})(\text{ethene})]$.¹⁷ At low temperature the exchange broadened signal in the ^1H NMR spectrum is split up into separate signals for free and coordinated ethene. These signals are still broad singlets at $-60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, showing that the exchange process is rapid, even at such a low temperature. This was further corroborated by the observation that at ambient temperature as well as at $-60\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ no signal for the alkene carbon atoms could be detected in the $^{13}\text{C}\{-^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum.

The reaction of **5** with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid under controlled conditions has shown that a palladium-hydride complex is indeed formed and that its formation is rapid. We can assume that for the different complexes such a palladium-hydride species is also formed when the catalyst precursor is dissolved in the reaction medium (which contains among others *p*-toluenesulfonic acid). The data from Table 2 show, however, that there is a big influence of the alkene present in the precursor complex on the observed activity of the catalyst. The complexes with the alkene that is relatively weakly bonded (ethene) show the highest activity, whereas the complex with a strongly binding alkene (TCNE) showed almost no activity. The other alkenes fall nicely between these two extremes. Maleic anhydride is an exception here, since it gave the same activity as the ethene complex, although it is reported to have the same coordination strength as fumaronitrile. These observations suggest that the presence of different alkenes influences the rate-determining step (or the preceding step) of the reaction.

What exactly the rate-determining step is we cannot say. There are, however, several likely possibilities. The first one is that when the palladium(0)-alkene complexes are used, the rate-determining step is the formation of the palladium-hydride complex, which is the actual active species. When a strongly coordinated alkene is present, the formation of a $[\text{PdL}_2]$ species (by dissociation of the alkene), which is supposed to react with the acid in a next step to give the palladium(II)-hydride complex, is hindered. In this way, only a varying amount of precatalyst is converted into an active species, depending on the alkene palladium bonding, leading for the stronger binding alkenes to the low conversion observed. This does not explain, however, why complex **1** gave such a high activity, while complex **3** gave a much lower activity, despite that maleic anhydride and fumaronitrile have a similar coordinating strength.

The second reason could be that in all cases the active species is formed quickly, regardless of which precatalyst is used, but the alkene released competes with styrene for coordination to the palladium center in the rate-determining step of the catalytic cycle itself. For alkenes that have a higher coordinating strength, we would then expect a lower conversion (in the same reaction time). Although such a trend is clearly visible

Scheme 6. Catalytic Cycle for Methoxycarbonylation of Styrene Using a $[\text{Pd}(0)(\text{PAr}_3)_2(\text{alkene})]$ Complex as the Precursor^a



^a Legend: L = MeOH or CO.

from the current data, again maleic anhydride does not show the behavior that we would expect based on coordinating strength only. More detailed investigations into the behavior of the complexes, and especially that of complex **1**, are necessary to obtain a full understanding.

When we compare the results for the palladium(0)-alkene complexes with those for $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ as the precursor, we see that the best palladium(0)-alkene complexes (**1** and **5**) compare quite favorably with this complex, in terms of both activity and selectivity. We can presume therefore that for the palladium(0)-alkene complexes the same catalytic cycle as proposed for $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ is operational (Scheme 6).³³

Fluorous precursor palladium(0) complex **7** gave a lower conversion when compared with its nonfluorous analogue **1**. A similar effect was already observed in a previous study, where we compared the complexes $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]$ and $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$.¹⁸ Apparently, the introduction of fluorous phosphines into catalysts for the methoxycarbonylation of styrene has a negative effect on the activity. However, for **7** a slightly higher selectivity toward the *branched* product was observed when compared with **1**, which is again in line with the observations made when the complexes $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{PAr}_3)_2]$ were used as catalyst precursors.

Between palladium(0) complex **7** and $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]$ as the catalyst precursor differences were also observed. During the first 2 h of catalysis there is no difference between the use of **7** and $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]$, but after that time period **7** gave almost no further activity, whereas with $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]$ still appreciable activity was observed until about 3 h reaction time. For the palladium(II) complex we have already shown that there is an equilibrium between $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]$ and the dimeric complex $[\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2(\text{P}\{\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13})_3\}_3)_2]_2$ and free phosphine in solution. This dimeric complex is slowly converted into active species during the reaction time. This makes sure that fresh catalyst is present in solution, also after

2 h of catalysis. For **7** such an equilibrium reaction is not present; here the catalyst precursor is converted straightaway into catalytically active species. We can therefore assume, also because we observe extensive formation of palladium black with **7** as the precursor, that after 2 h most of the catalyst is destroyed.

Conclusions

A series of zerovalent palladium(0)-alkene bis(triphenylphosphine) complexes was synthesized and characterized. In the $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra of the complexes it was observed that the alkene carbon signals of coordinated fumaronitrile and maleic anhydride show different patterns. The complexes were tested as catalyst precursors for the methoxycarbonylation of styrene at 80 °C, from which the following ranking in activity was observed: ethene \approx maleic acid anhydride > fumaronitrile > benzoquinone > tetracyanoethylene. Catalysis at lower temperatures gave a moderate drop in conversion, but a higher selectivity toward the branched product. ^1H NMR experiments with the palladium-ethene complex showed that the starting alkene complex reacts with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid to give a palladium-hydride complex. The complex $[\text{Pd}(\text{O})(\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13}))_3)_2(\text{maleic anhydride})]$ was also synthesized, characterized, and tested as a catalyst precursor for this reaction. It was found to be less active than its nonfluorous counterpart and to rapidly decompose to palladium black under reaction conditions (80 °C). This decomposition could be prevented by lowering the reaction temperature, which also has a beneficial effect on selectivity toward the branched product.

The results presented here show that palladium(0)-alkene complexes are viable precursors for the methoxycarbonylation of styrene and that the fluorinated derivatives could be successfully synthesized and applied as precursors as well. Before application in FBS is feasible, issues concerning catalyst stability under reaction conditions and recycling should be further investigated. Also, further investigations on the catalytic cycle are worthwhile, for instance by examining the kinetics, order in styrene, and the influence of alkene released from the precursor complex.

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All experimental work was carried out in Schlenk type vessels under a N_2 atmosphere unless stated otherwise. Diethyl ether, *n*-pentane, *n*-hexane, THF, and toluene were dried and distilled from sodium. Acetone was distilled from B_2O_3 . MeOH was distilled from $\text{Mg}(\text{OMe})_2$. $\alpha, \alpha', \alpha''$ -Trifluorotoluene was degassed via freeze–pump–thaw cycles (3 times) and stored on molecular sieves. $[\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3\text{dba}]$,¹ $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{MA})]$,⁷ $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{TCNE})]$,⁷ $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{BQ})]$,¹⁹ $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)]$,¹² and $\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-}p\text{-SiMe}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{F}_{13}))_3$ ⁴⁴ were synthesized as reported. PPh_3 , $[\text{AlEt}_2(\text{OEt})_2]$ (Aldrich), *n*-decane, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (Acros), and $[\text{Pd}(\text{acetylacetonato})_2]$ (Strem) were used as received. Styrene (Acros) was purified by flash chromatography (neutral Alumina, Fluka) prior to use. C_2H_4 (Praxair, grade 4.0) and CO (Praxair, >99.9%) were used as received. CDCl_3 , CD_2Cl_2 , C_6D_6 , and toluene- d_8 (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) were degassed and stored on molecular sieves under N_2 . ^1H , $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$, ^{19}F , and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 MHz Varian Mercury-VxWorks, a Varian-INOVA 500, and a Bruker DRX300 at ambient temperature unless stated

otherwise. Chemical shifts are referenced internally against residual solvent signal (^1H , ^{13}C) or externally against CFCl_3 (^{19}F) or 85% H_3PO_4 (^{31}P). Abbreviations used: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, vt = virtual triplet, m = multiplet. GC analyses were performed on a Varian 3300 gas chromatograph equipped with a J&W Scientific Inc. DB-5 column (30 m, 0.320 mm internal diameter) and a FID detector (280 °C), using N_2 as the carrier gas and attached to a Varian 4400 integrator. Elemental analyses were carried out by H. Kolbe Mikroanalytisch Laboratorium, Mülheim an der Ruhr.

Autoclaves. Two autoclaves were employed for all catalytic reactions. One was a normal Hastelloy autoclave with a volume of 100 mL. Stirring was achieved with a magnetic stirring bar, and heating was accomplished with a heating mantle. To exclude contamination with metallic palladium or other residues from the inner wall, a glass insert was employed in all reactions. The second autoclave was a home-built stainless steel (Hastelloy) autoclave with a volume of 50 mL.⁴⁵ It is equipped with a pressure transducer (Kulite), thermocouples in the wall and interior of the autoclave, four heating rods drilled into the mantle, a rupture disk assembly (set at 250 bar), an injection port, and two borosilicate (Maxos 200) windows to allow visual inspection of the contents. The temperature was controlled for both autoclaves to be ± 2 °C of the desired reaction temperature.

[Palladium(0)(PPh₃)₂(maleic anhydride)] (1). Following the procedure as described by Vrieze et al.,⁷ the title compound was prepared from $[\text{Pd}(\text{O})(t\text{-BuDAB})(\text{MA})]$ **1** (0.71 g, 1.90 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.30 g, 4.94 mmol) and obtained as a yellow-green solid (0.96 g, 1.90 mmol, 100% based on $[\text{Pd}(\text{O})(t\text{-BuDAB})(\text{MA})]$). ^1H NMR data were in accordance with those reported.

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 75.5 MHz): δ 56.2 (m, $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 20.2$ Hz (t), $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 22.7$ MHz (d), CH of MA), 128.8 (vt, $J_{\text{C,P}} = 9.4$ Hz, *m*-C PPh₃), 130.0 (s, *p*-C PPh₃), 132.3 (vt, $J_{\text{C,P}} = \text{Hz}$, *ipso*-C PPh₃), 134.1 (vt, $J_{\text{C,P}} = 14.2$ Hz, *o*-C PPh₃), 170.5 (s, C=O of MA). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 121.5 MHz): δ 27.37 (s).

[Palladium(0)(PPh₃)₂(tetracyanoethylene)] (2). Following the experimental procedure as described by Vrieze et al.,⁷ the title compound was synthesized from $[\text{Pd}(\text{O})(t\text{-BuDAB})(\text{TCNE})]$ (0.72 g, 1.79 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (1.22 g, 4.65 mmol) and isolated as a green solid (1.36 g, 1.79 mmol, 100% based on $[\text{Pd}(\text{O})(t\text{-BuDAB})(\text{TCNE})]$). ^1H NMR data were in accordance with those reported.

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3 , 75.5 MHz): δ 26.11 (vt, $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 22.5$ Hz, C=C TCNE), 113.79 (vt, $^3J_{\text{C,P}} = 3.7$ Hz, CN), 129.39 (vt, $J_{\text{C,P}} = 10.8$ Hz, *m*-C PPh₃), 131.56 (s, *p*-C PPh₃), 134.08 (vt, $J_{\text{C,P}} = 12.8$ Hz, *o*-C PPh₃). The signal for *ipso*-C of PPh₃ was not observed. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3 , 121.5 MHz): δ 23.86 (s).

[Palladium(0)(PPh₃)₂(fumaronitrile)] (3). A procedure similar to the one used for **1** and **2** was used.⁷ To a solution of **6** (1.73 mmol) in a Schlenk vessel in dry acetone (20 mL) was added triphenylphosphine (1.20 g, 4.50 mmol). After stirring for 2 h the reaction mixture was filtered on Celite and evaporated to dryness to give an off-white solid in quantitative yield (1.23 g, 1.73 mmol, 100% based on **6**). ^1H NMR data were in accordance with previously reported values.

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 75.5 MHz): δ 34.6 (dd, $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 6.6$ Hz, $^2J_{\text{C,P}} = 36.8$ Hz, CH(CN)), δ 121.6 (t, CH(CN)), 128.8 (m, *C*-aryl PPh₃), 130.3 (s, *p*-C PPh₃), 134.0 (m, *C*-aryl PPh₃). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 121.5 MHz): δ 27.04 (s).

[Palladium(0)(PPh₃)₂(*p*-benzoquinone)] (4). A procedure for related complexes was used.¹⁹ To a suspension of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (120 mg, 0.10 mmol) in dry benzene (1 mL) was added a solution of benzoquinone (10.8 mg, 0.13 mmol) in dry benzene (0.4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min. The clear solution was concentrated to 0.2 mL, and a mixture of ether/hexane (2:1) was added to obtain a red to orange solid in quantitative yield (76.9 mg, 0.10 mmol, 100% based on $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4]$).

(44) Richter, B.; de Wolf, A. C. A.; van Koten, G.; Deelman, B.-J. *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, *65*, 3885.

(45) For a detailed description see: ref 11, Chapter 2.

¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 300.1 MHz): δ 5.39 (d, ³J_{H,P} = 6.6 Hz, 4H, BQ), 6.94 (m, 18H, *H*-aryl PPh₃), 7.35 (m, 12H, *H*-aryl PPh₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 75.5 MHz): δ 104.81 (vt, ³J_{C,P} = 1.5 Hz, CH BQ), 128.43 (vt, J_{C,P} = 9.4 Hz, *m*-C PPh₃), 130.02 (s, *p*-C PPh₃), 133.99 (vt, J_{C,P} = 14.4 Hz, *o*-C PPh₃), 185.89 (s, C=O BQ). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (C₆D₆, 121.5 MHz): δ 30.64 (s).

[Palladium(0)(PPh₃)₂(ethene)] (5). Following the procedure as described by de Jongh et al.¹² the title compound was synthesized from [Pd(acetylacetonate)₂] (1.00 g, 3.28 mmol), triphenylphosphine (1.72 g, 6.56 mmol), and [Al(Et)₂(OEt)]₂ (4.8 mL, 6.50 mmol) and isolated as a light gray solid (0.78 g, 1.18 mmol, 36% based on [Pd(acetylacetonate)₂]). Because of the high instability of the complex in solution when no additional ethene is present, NMR spectra were recorded in ethene-saturated toluene-*d*₈ and CD₂Cl₂.

¹H NMR (toluene-*d*₈, 300.1 MHz): δ 4.09 (br s, CH₂ of ethene), 7.17 (m, 18H, PPh₃), 7.65 (br s, 12H, PPh₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 75.5 MHz, -60 °C): δ 127.84 (s, *C*-aryl PPh₃), 128.62 (s, *C*-aryl PPh₃), 133.27 (vt, J_{C,P} = 15.0 Hz, *o*-C PPh₃), 137.20 (vt, J_{C,P} = 27.4 Hz, *ipso*-C PPh₃). The signal for CH₂ of ethene was not observed. ³¹P{¹H} NMR (toluene-*d*₈, 121.5 MHz, -40 °C): δ 27.47 (s).

[Palladium(0)(*tert*-butylDAB)(fumaronitrile)] (6). A procedure similar to the one used for **1** and **2** was used.⁷ To a solution of [Pd₂(dba)₃dba] (2.94 mmol) and *tert*-butylDAB (6.45 mmol) in a Schlenk vessel in dry acetone (20 mL) was added fumaronitrile (0.50 g, 6.45 mmol). After stirring overnight at room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered over Celite and evaporated to dryness. The resulting yellow solid was washed with *n*-pentane and dried under vacuum to give a yellow solid (1.74 g, 4.94 mmol, 84% yield based on [Pd₂(dba)₃dba]). Crystals suitable for single-crystal X-ray determination were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent from a solution of the complex in acetone. Its ¹H NMR data were in accordance with those reported earlier in the literature.

¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 75.5 MHz): δ 156.8 (C=N imine), 123.4 (CN fumaronitrile), 62.6 (CH(CN)), 29.7 (C(CH₃)₃), 18.3 (CH₃). FAB MS: M⁺ = 353.1.

Crystal Structure Determination of [palladium(0)-(*tert*-butylDAB)(fumaronitrile)] (6). C₁₄H₂₂N₄Pd, fw = 352.76, yellow block, 0.04 × 0.10 × 0.40 mm³, monoclinic, space group C2/c (no. 15), *a* = 11.812(5) Å, *b* = 14.33(3) Å, *c* = 10.703(5) Å, β = 120.42(5)°, *V* = 1562(4) Å³, *Z* = 4, ρ = 1.500 g/cm³, *F*(000) = 720. A total of 12 527 reflections were measured up to a resolution of (sin θ/λ) = 0.63 Å⁻¹ on a Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer with rotating anode and Mo K α radiation (graphite monochromator, λ = 0.71073 Å) at a temperature of 150(2) K. A multiscan absorption correction was applied using SADABS.⁴⁶ The unit cell was obtained using DIRAX,⁴⁷ and data were collected using Collect Software⁴⁸ and integrated using EvalCCD.⁴⁹ A total of 1786 reflections were unique (*R*_{int} = 0.065). The structure was solved with DIRDIF99⁵⁰ and refined using SHELXL97.⁵¹ Non-hydrogen atoms were refined freely. H(6) was located in a difference map refined isotropically. All other hydrogen atoms were placed in idealized positions and constrained to ride on their parent atoms (*U*_{iso}(H) = 1.2*U*_{iso}(C) for aromatic H atoms and *U*_{iso}(H) = *U*_{iso}(C) for all other hydrogen atoms). Refined parameters: 94. *R* (*I* > 2 σ (*I*)): *R*₁ = 0.0325, *wR*₂ = 0.0720. *R* (all data): *R*₁ = 0.0434, *wR*₂ = 0.0753. *S* = 1.1. Weighting scheme *w* = 1/[$\sigma^2(F_o^2)$ +

(0.0328*P*)² + 5.2766*P*] where *P* = (*F*_o² + 2*F*_c²)/3. Residual electron density: between -1.19 and 0.72 e/Å³. The drawings, structure calculations, and checking for higher symmetry were performed with the program Platon.⁵²

[Palladium(0)(P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃)₂-(maleic anhydride)] (7). In a Schlenk vessel was weighed P{C₆H₄-*p*-SiMe₂(CH₂CH₂C₆F₁₃)₃} (0.89 g, 0.60 mmol), which was subsequently dissolved in THF (10 mL). [Palladium(0)-(maleic anhydride)(norbornadiene)] (89.4 mg, 0.30 mmol) was added, and the resulting yellow solution was stirred for 30 min at ambient temperature. The solution was filtered through Celite to remove metallic palladium, and the filter cake was washed with THF (2 × 5 mL). The combined organic layers were evaporated to dryness. The remaining yellow oil was washed with *n*-pentane at -40 °C (3 times). The final product was obtained as a light yellow solid (0.51 g, 0.16 mmol, 54% based on [palladium(0)(maleic anhydride)(norbornadiene)]).

¹H NMR (300.1 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 0.33 (s, 36H, SiMe₂), 0.98 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂), 2.03 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂), 4.15 (d, ³J_{H,P} = 4.8 Hz, CH MA), 7.18 (t, 10H, P-C₆H₄), 7.37 (d, 10H, P-C₆H₄). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125.7 MHz): δ -3.64 (s, SiMe₂), 5.28 (s, SiCH₂), 26.08 (t, ²J_{C,F} = 23.5 Hz, SiCH₂CH₂), 131.38 (s, *C*-aryl phosphine), 133.48 (m, *C*-aryl phosphine), 140.36 (s, *C*-aryl phosphine). ¹⁹F NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 282.4 MHz): δ -124.61 (s, 12F, CF₂), -121.62 (s, 12F, CF₂), -121.34 (s, 12F, CF₂), -120.46 (s, 12F, CF₂), -114.43 (s, 12F, CF₂), -79.54 (s, 18F, CF₃). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (121.5 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 28.50 MHz (s). Due to instability of the complex, no satisfactory elemental analyses could be obtained.

Catalytic Studies. The following description for [Pd(0)-(PPh₃)₂(MA)] is illustrative for all catalysis runs using the zerovalent Pd alkene complexes. In a Schlenk vessel was weighed the starting palladium complex (27.0 mg, 0.037 mmol). A second Schlenk vessel was charged with styrene (580.7 mg, 5.58 mmol, 151 equiv with respect to Pd), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (209.7 mg, 1.10 mmol, 30 equiv with respect to Pd), H₂O (0.38 mL, 600 equiv with respect to Pd), *n*-decane (22 mg, 0.15 mmol), MeOH (8.7 mL), and α,α',α'' -trifluorotoluene (8.7 mL). The resulting clear solution was mixed and then transferred via syringe to the Schlenk vessel containing the palladium complex. This mixture was divided equally over the two autoclaves. After sealing they were evacuated three times and refilled with N₂, followed by flushing three times with CO (15 bar). The autoclaves were heated to the desired temperature and subsequently pressurized with CO (30 bar), which was taken as the starting point. After the desired reaction time had passed, the autoclaves were cooled and carefully vented and their contents collected. Analysis was performed via GC using *n*-decane as an internal standard. The autoclaves were cleaned by washing with aqua regia, water, and acetone, respectively.

NMR Study on the Reaction of [Pd(0)(PPh₃)₂(C₂H₄)] with 3 equiv of *p*-Toluenesulfonic Acid in MeOH-*d*₄. In a Schlenk vessel the starting palladium complex (77.0 mg, 0.12 mmol) was weighed. To this was added a solution of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (66.9 mg, 0.35 mmol, 3 equiv) in MeOH-*d*₄ (0.5 mL). After about 1 min, when the initial gray suspension had turned into a clear dark red solution, this solution was transferred via syringe to a 5 mm NMR tube. The NMR tube was placed in the NMR spectrometer and shimmed, and the ¹H (500 MHz), ¹H{³¹P}, and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded. For the ¹H{³¹P} NMR experiment, ³¹P decoupling was performed using the GARP-1 sequence.

Supporting Information Available: CIF files of crystal structure data collection and refinement parameters, atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and anisotropic displacement parameters for **6**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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