

## B—N bond cleavage by cobalt(II) in acetato(3,5-diphenylpyrazole)-[tris(3,5-diphenylpyrazolyl)borato]-cobalt(II)

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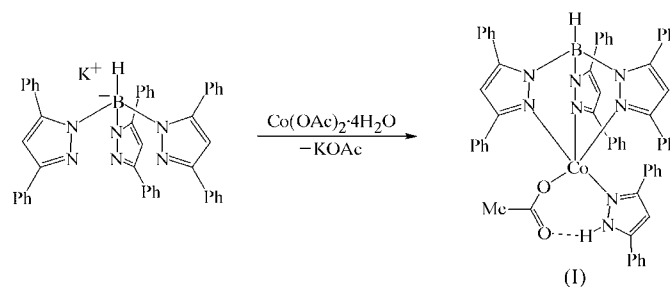
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The reaction of cobalt(II) acetate with potassium tris(pyrazolyl)borate (KTP<sup>Ph2</sup>) affords the title complex, [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup>)] (Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup> is 3,5-diphenylpyrazole) or [Co(C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>34</sub>BN<sub>6</sub>)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)], as a result of cobalt-induced B—N bond cleavage of the tris(pyrazolyl)borate ligand. The cobalt complex exhibits a distorted CoN<sub>4</sub>O coordination geometry with a  $\kappa^3$ -coordinated Tp<sup>Ph2</sup> ligand and monodentate acetate and pyrazole ligands. In addition, the non-coordinated acetate O atom is involved in a weak intramolecular hydrogen-bonding interaction with the pyrrole NH group.

### Comment

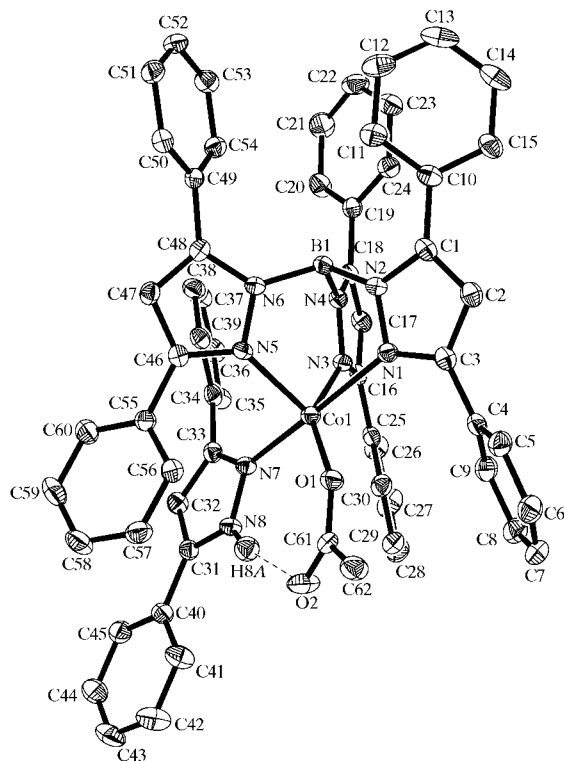
The tris(pyrazolyl)borate ligands, HB(pz)<sub>3</sub><sup>−</sup>, first introduced by Trofimenko (1993), have found widespread use in coordination chemistry. Their popularity arises from their ease of preparation and the readiness with which their steric and electronic properties may be varied. The use of tris(pyrazolyl)borates of intermediate steric bulk, namely tris(3,5-diphenylpyrazolyl)borate (Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>), is of particular interest to us as these compounds inhibit the formation of chemically inactive sandwich complexes, ML<sub>2</sub> [L = tris(pyrazolyl)borate], without enforcing tetrahedral geometry upon the metal. Tris(3,5-diphenylpyrazolyl)borate was first synthesized by Kitajima *et al.* (1992) and since then many complexes with Cu<sup>I</sup> and Cu<sup>II</sup> have appeared (Carrier *et al.*, 1993; Halcrow *et al.*, 1997; Chia *et al.*, 2000; Foster *et al.*, 2000). In contrast, Co<sup>II</sup> (Ruman *et al.*, 2002) and Ni<sup>II</sup> (Guo *et al.*, 1998) complexes remain poorly represented. Indeed, in the case of Co<sup>II</sup>, the only reported complex, [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(NO<sub>3</sub>)], was isolated as a by-product (Ruman *et al.*, 2002). The reaction of cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate with KTP<sup>Ph2</sup> in a 1:1 molar ratio yields deep-purple crystals shown by X-ray analysis to be [Co-

(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup>)] (Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup> is 3,5-diphenylpyrazole), (I). The high purity of the tris(pyrazolyl)borate reagent, *i.e.* KTP<sup>Ph2</sup>, indicates that the source of Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup> is not a ligand impurity but the result of metal-mediated B—N bond cleavage. Interestingly, the reaction between Co(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)<sub>2</sub> and the related ligand KTP<sup>Ph</sup> yields [Co(Tp<sup>Ph</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)] as the only product (Kremer-Aach *et al.*, 1997). However, reactions with Cu<sup>II</sup> salts (X = Cl and O<sub>2</sub>CMe) yield B—N-cleaved products, [Cu(Tp<sup>Ph</sup>)X(Hpz<sup>Ph</sup>)], apparently as a result of the increased Lewis acidity of Cu<sup>2+</sup> compared with Co<sup>2+</sup> (Halcrow *et al.*, 1997; Chia *et al.*, 2000). Thus, it appears that the subtle differences between Tp<sup>Ph2</sup> and Tp<sup>Ph</sup> result in the formation of B—N-cleaved products.



The results of X-ray analysis are supported by the FAB mass spectrum, which shows a strong peak at 787 corresponding to [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)]<sup>+</sup> and a weaker signal at 1008 suggesting the presence of [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup>)]<sup>+</sup>. IR spectroscopy shows a strong B—H stretch at 2627 cm<sup>−1</sup>, indicative of a  $\kappa^3$ -coordinated Tp<sup>Ph2</sup> ligand, while an N—H stretch at 3427 cm<sup>−1</sup> confirms the presence of a bound pyrazole group. Moreover, the difference in the symmetric and asymmetric stretch of the acetate ligand [ $\Delta\nu(\text{CO}_2) = 149 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ] indicates that the ligand is monodentate (Kremer-Aach *et al.*, 1997). Finally, elemental analysis (see *Experimental*) of the bulk sample was consistent with the formulation [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup>)], and thus the crystals were considered representative of the sample.

The complex crystallizes in the triclinic space group  $P\bar{1}$ , with no solvent molecules in the crystal structure. The cobalt ion is five-coordinate (Fig. 1) and adopts a coordination geometry intermediate between trigonal bipyramidal (tbp; with N1 and N7 as the axial atoms, and N5, N3 and O1 as the equatorial atoms) and square pyramidal (with N1, N7, N3 and O1 as the basal atoms, and N5 as the apical atom). Of particular note is the N3—Co1—O1 angle, which is nearly 30° greater than an ideal tbp equatorial angle, and the N3—Co1—N5 and O1—Co1—N5 angles, which are significantly contracted (Table 1). The highly distorted geometry around the metal atom is probably a result of the large steric bulk of the Tp<sup>Ph2</sup> and pyrazole ligands. As expected, the Tp<sup>Ph2</sup> ligand is  $\kappa^3$ -coordinated, although in contrast to [Co(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)( $\eta^2$ -NO<sub>3</sub>)], the Co—N<sub>pz</sub> bonds are not all equivalent, with the Co—N1 bond approximately 0.2 Å longer than the Co—N3 and Co—N5 bonds (Ruman *et al.*, 2002). A similar observation has been noted in the structure of [Co(Tp<sup>Ph</sup>)(NCS)(THF)] (THF is


**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of (I), showing the atom-labelling scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level. The hydrogen-bonding interaction of H8A to O2 is shown by a dashed line. Other H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

tetrahydrofuran), where the Co–N<sub>pz</sub> bonds are 2.054 (4), 2.079 (4) and 2.180 (4) Å (Calabrese *et al.*, 1986). The acetate ligand in (I) is bound in a monodentate fashion, with a weak intramolecular N–H···O hydrogen bond between the non-coordinated acetate O atom and the pyrrole NH group (Table 2). An almost identical interaction occurs in the structure of [Cu(Tp<sup>Ph</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph</sup>)], where the O···N distance is 2.612 (5) Å and the O···H–N angle is 149° (Chia *et al.*, 2000).

## Experimental

KTp<sup>Ph2</sup> was prepared according to the literature method of Kitajima *et al.* (1992). Co(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (82 mg, 0.33 mmol) was dissolved in a tetrahydrofuran–methanol (5:1 ml) solution. KTp<sup>Ph2</sup> was then dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (5 ml) and added dropwise to the metal solution, resulting in a colour change from orange to red–brown. The solution was stirred for 4 h and then reduced to dryness *in vacuo*. The solid was washed with ethanol (3 × 5 ml) and then with diethyl ether (5 ml). The solid was redissolved in dichloromethane (2 ml) and then filtered through celite, yielding a deep-pink–purple solution that was layered with hexanes (10 ml). After 2 d, deep-purple crystals were collected and washed with hexane and ether to give [Co–(Tp<sup>Ph2</sup>)(O<sub>2</sub>CMe)(Hpz<sup>Ph2</sup>)] (yield 131 mg, 44%). Analysis calculated for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>49</sub>BCoN<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (*M<sub>r</sub>* = 1007.83): C 73.89, H 4.90, N 11.12%; found: C 73.85, H 5.16, N 11.06%. MS/FAB (*m/e*): 1008, 787. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3427 (νNH), 2627 (νBH), 1558 [ν(CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>as</sub>], 1409 [ν(CO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>sym</sub>].

## Crystal data

[Co(C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>34</sub>BN<sub>6</sub>)(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)·(C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)]  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 1007.83  
 Triclinic, *P* $\bar{1}$   
*a* = 13.5669 (12) Å  
*b* = 14.0474 (12) Å  
*c* = 15.4195 (14) Å  
 $\alpha$  = 84.568 (2)°  
 $\beta$  = 66.500 (1)°  
 $\gamma$  = 67.199 (1)°  
*V* = 2478.1 (4) Å<sup>3</sup>

*Z* = 2  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.351 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo K $\alpha$  radiation  
 Cell parameters from 7380 reflections  
 $\theta$  = 4.4–53.1°  
 $\mu$  = 0.40 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 150 (2) K  
 Block, purple  
 0.39 × 0.21 × 0.21 mm

## Data collection

Bruker SMART 1000 diffractometer  
 $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker 1997)  
*T<sub>min</sub>* = 0.859, *T<sub>max</sub>* = 0.920  
 28 606 measured reflections

11 119 independent reflections  
 7921 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R<sub>int</sub>* = 0.041  
 $\theta_{max}$  = 27.6°  
*h* = –17 → 17  
*k* = –18 → 18  
*l* = –20 → 20

## Refinement

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R*[*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.044  
*wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.105  
*S* = 1.03  
 11 119 reflections  
 669 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0462P)^2 + 0.4199P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.002$   
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.36 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.33 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Co1–O1	1.9712 (14)	Co1–N7	2.1443 (16)
Co1–N3	2.0305 (16)	Co1–N1	2.2896 (16)
Co1–N5	2.0347 (16)		
O1–Co1–N3	147.09 (6)	N5–Co1–N7	94.55 (6)
O1–Co1–N5	109.95 (6)	O1–Co1–N1	82.87 (6)
N3–Co1–N5	96.58 (6)	N3–Co1–N1	79.34 (6)
O1–Co1–N7	103.17 (6)	N5–Co1–N1	87.00 (6)
N3–Co1–N7	93.45 (6)	N7–Co1–N1	172.76 (6)

**Table 2**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

<i>D</i> –H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> –H	H··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> ··· <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> –H··· <i>A</i>
N8–H8A···O2	0.88	1.78	2.637 (2)	163

H atoms were positioned geometrically and refined using a riding model (including torsional freedom for methyl groups), with C–H distances of 0.95–0.98 Å, and with *U*<sub>iso</sub>(H) values constrained to be 1.2 (1.5 for methyl groups) times *U*<sub>eq</sub> of the carrier atom.

Data collection: *SMART* (Bruker, 1997); cell refinement: *SMART*; data reduction: *SAINT* (Bruker, 1997); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *SHELXTL* (Bruker, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXTL*.

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Supplementary data for this paper are available from the IUCr electronic archives (Reference: SQ1208). Services for accessing these data are described at the back of the journal.

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