

## Metallacycles

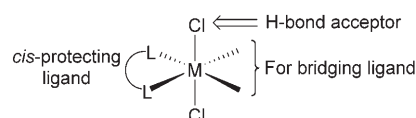
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# A Self-Complementary Assembly of Metallamacrocycles Directed by Ru–Cl...H–N Hydrogen Bonds and Its Reversible Dichotomy by Halide Anions in Solution\*\*

Young Jun Park, Jik-Soo Kim, Kyoung-Tae Youm, Nam-Kyu Lee, Jaejung Ko,\* Hye-seo Park,\* and Moo-Jin Jun\*

The coordination-directed self-assembly approach is an extremely powerful strategy for the synthesis of various 2- and 3D metallasupramolecules and can provide a structural and functional basis for its potential application toward

molecular sensing and catalysis by using supramolecular chemistry.<sup>[1]</sup> In particular, discrete 3D self-assemblies derived from the multiple noncovalent interactions between monomeric metallo-subunits, such as chains, squares, and/or cages, are very intriguing because they are structurally complex but symmetrically simple and synthetically convenient to make.<sup>[2]</sup> Whereas various functional groups have been utilized for such purposes, little attention has been paid to metal–halide bonds, although they are well known as hydrogen-bond acceptors in molecular recognition and crystal engineering.<sup>[3]</sup> The halides are usually destined to be eliminated, presumably as a result of limited coordination sites on the metal center for incoming ligands.<sup>[1]</sup> These facts prompted us to explore the way to get the metal–halide groups to participate in both the coordination-directed and noncovalent self-assembly processes without their abstraction. Considering the molecular library model,<sup>[1g]</sup> we envisioned that the octahedral geometry of a transition metal might provide a novel approach for the use of metal–halide bonds as a self-assembly motif. For example, octahedral transition-metal centers with axial halide and *cis*-protecting ligands could serve as a 90° building block. The axial halide, then, may participate in hydrogen bonding with suitably functionalized bridging ligands.



Herein, we demonstrate the unprecedented self-complementary dimer of Ru<sup>II</sup> metallamacrocycles which uses the intact metal–halide bonds in the coordination-directed self-assembly process and its reversible dissociation/association behavior, which is controlled by halide anions in solution.

The ligand *N,N'*-bis(pyridin-4-yl)pyridine-2,6-dicarboxamide (**1**) was quite suitable for our purpose because it has central amide protons as hydrogen-bonding donors and is well known for bridging two metal centers, thus giving metallamacrocycles.<sup>[4]</sup> In addition, its bisamide configuration has proven to be very useful in hydrogen-bonding-mediated rotaxane formation<sup>[5]</sup> and anion recognition<sup>[6]</sup> with metallasupramolecules. As a precursor for the metal center, [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (**2**) was chosen for its ability to give a *trans*-Cl<sub>2</sub>-*cis*-N<sub>2</sub>-*cis*-P<sub>2</sub> coordination environment around the Ru<sup>II</sup> center by reaction with a chelating phosphine and N-donor ligands.<sup>[7]</sup>

Stirring equimolar amounts of **1**, **2**, and 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (DPPP) in acetone at room temperature yielded the orange solid of **3**<sub>2</sub> in good yield (87%; Scheme 1).

A single-crystal X-ray structure determination of **3**<sub>2</sub> unambiguously revealed an interesting supramolecular association between two severely folded molecules of Ru<sup>II</sup> metallamacrocycle **3** (Figure 1).<sup>[8]</sup>

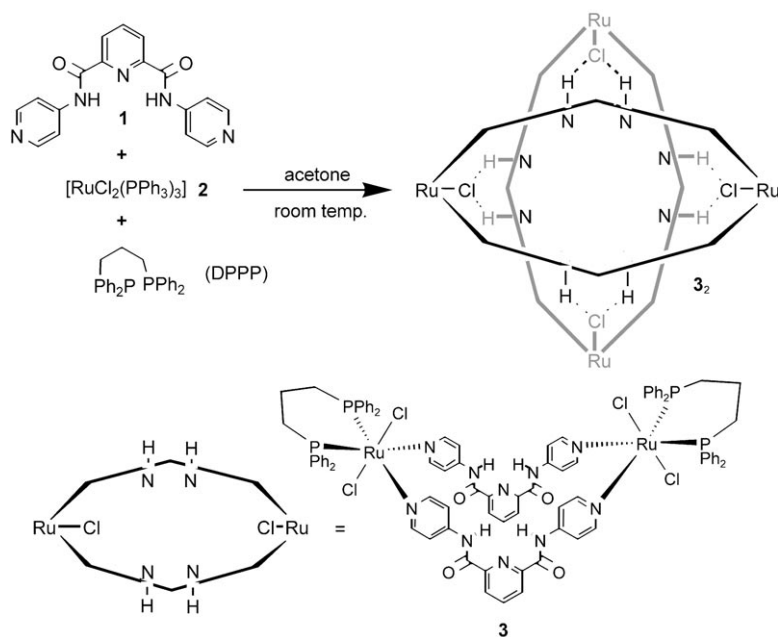
The folded metallacycles **3**, self-complementary monomers of **3**<sub>2</sub>, are oriented orthogonally to each other. This orthogonal assembly seems to be directed by N–H...Cl–Ru hydrogen bonds. Though the eight hydrogen-bonding distances (H...Cl: 2.68–2.72 Å) indicated a rather weak inter-

[\*] Prof. Dr. J. Ko  
Department of Chemistry  
Korea University  
Chochiwon, Chugnam 339-700 (Korea)  
Fax: (+82) 41-867-5396  
E-mail: jko@korea.ac.kr

Dr. Y. J. Park, J.-S. Kim, Dr. K.-T. Youm, N.-K. Lee, Prof. H.-s. Park,  
Prof. Dr. M.-J. Jun  
Department of Chemistry and Center for Bioactive  
Molecular Hybrids  
Yonsei University  
Seoul 120-749 (Korea)  
Fax: (+82) 2-364-7050  
E-mail: hsp@yonsei.ac.kr  
mjjun@yonsei.ac.kr

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Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under <http://www.angewandte.org> or from the author.



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of  $3_2$ .

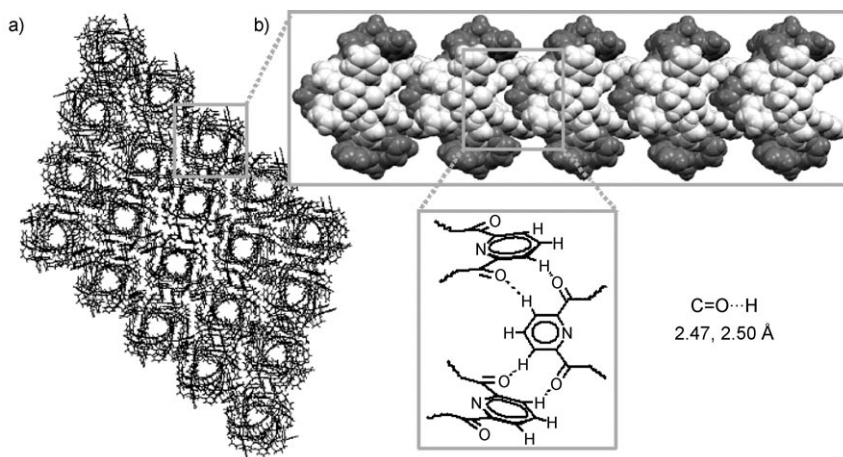
action<sup>[3a]</sup>, the difference in Ru–Cl bond lengths found in two crystallographically independent  $\text{NH}\cdots\text{Cl}_A\text{--Ru--Cl}_B$  moieties (Ru–Cl<sub>A</sub>: 2.4531(11) and 2.4537(12) Å; Ru–Cl<sub>B</sub>: 2.4196(12) and 2.4292(13) Å) may be found from these hydrogen-bonding interactions. The resulting hour-glass-shaped internal cavity has the volume of 355 Å<sup>3</sup> (calculated by PLATON<sup>[9]</sup>), but no other molecules were found in the cavity of the assembly. On the other hand, the additional stabilizing interactions might be intermolecular  $\pi\cdots\pi$  and C–H $\cdots\pi$  contacts between the phenyl groups of DPPP and pyridine rings of **1**. There are approximately 16 short contacts within the sum of their van der Waals radii. The exact extent of the contribution of each noncovalent interaction to

the observed structure of  $3_2$  is not clear at the present time. However, the role of the chelating phosphine moieties seems to be important in forming the discrete structure of  $3_2$ , because only DPPP gave an informative <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum out of the chelating phosphines investigated (see the Supporting Information).

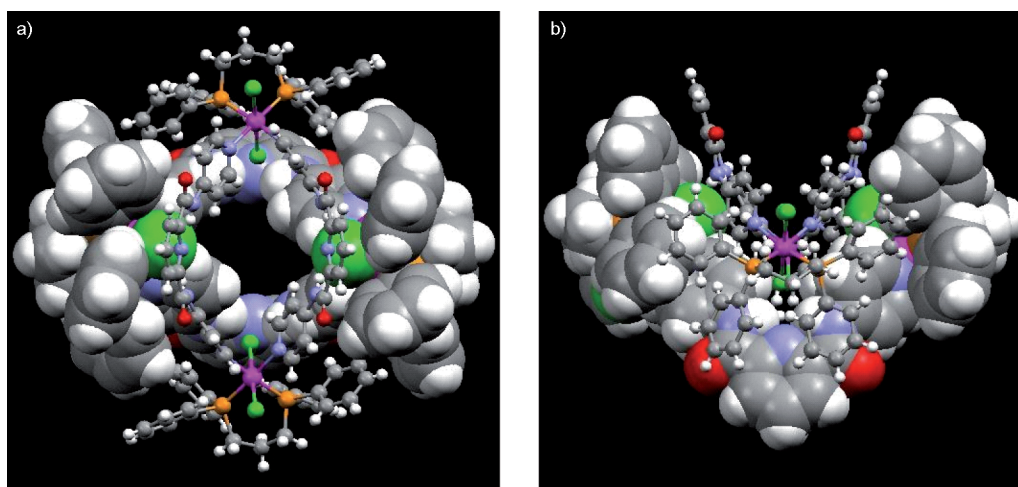
Another interesting feature of the solid-state structure of  $3_2$  is the infinite 1D tubular array found in the packing diagram (Figure 2).

Each dimeric  $3_2$  unit is stacked along the crystallographic *b* axis with the next forming four hydrogen-bonding pairs between the carbonyl oxygen atom and the 3,5-protons of the central pyridine groups. It is noteworthy that the hydrogen-bonding interactions are also networked in a self-complementary fashion in this case.

The complex  $3_2$  gave well-resolved but rather unusual <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in solution (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>),



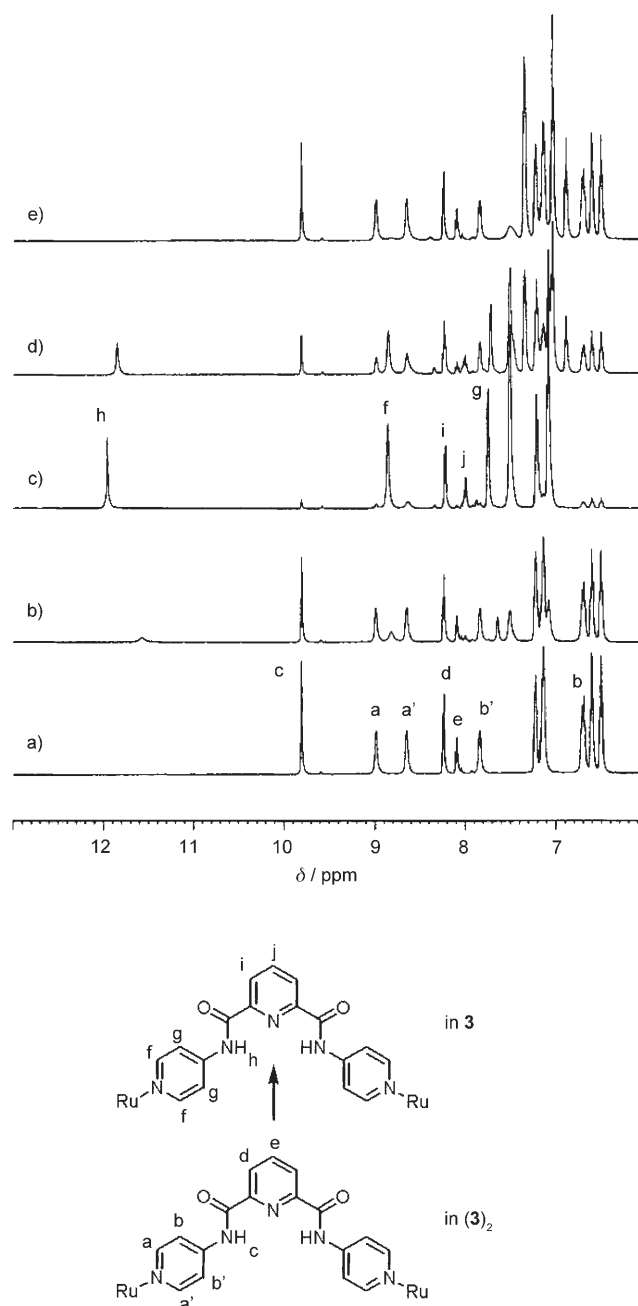
**Figure 2.** Packing diagram of  $3_2$ . a) Perspective view along the *b* axis showing an infinite 1D tubular array. b) Side view of one of the infinite 1D tubes showing intermolecular hydrogen bonding.



**Figure 1.** X-ray structure of  $3_2$ . a) Top and b) side views. Purple = Ru, green = Cl, orange = P, red = O, blue = N, gray = C, and white = H. One of two metallamacrocycles is presented as a CPK model.

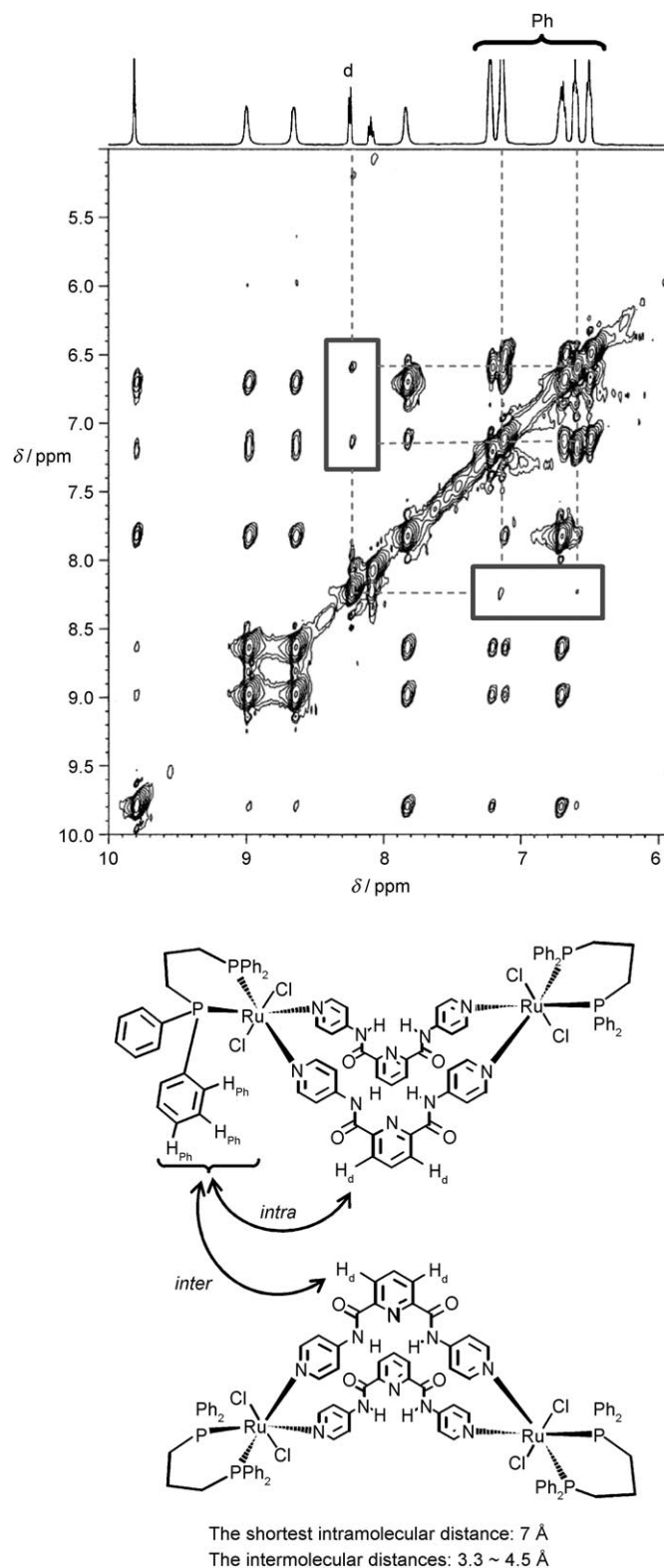
along with a single, sharp  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance, thus indicating a single symmetric species. For example, NMR signals for the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  protons of the coordinated pyridine group of **1** were observed in four different fields. The corresponding chemical-shift assignments are depicted in Figure 3a (determined by DQF-COSY, NOESY, and variable-temperature NMR spectroscopic analysis; see the Supporting Information).

The broken local  $C_2$  symmetry of the terminal pyridine groups of **1** suggests that those protons in solution are surrounded by the rigid unsymmetrical environments, as in the solid-state structure of **3**<sub>2</sub>. In addition, NOE interaction



**Figure 3.** Partial  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) showing reversible dissociation and association of **3**<sub>2</sub> upon addition of TEACl followed by  $\text{NaBPh}_4$ . a) **3**<sub>2</sub> alone, b) 1 equiv of TEACl, c) 6 equiv of TEACl, d) 1 equiv of  $\text{NaBPh}_4$ , and e) excess  $\text{NaBPh}_4$ .

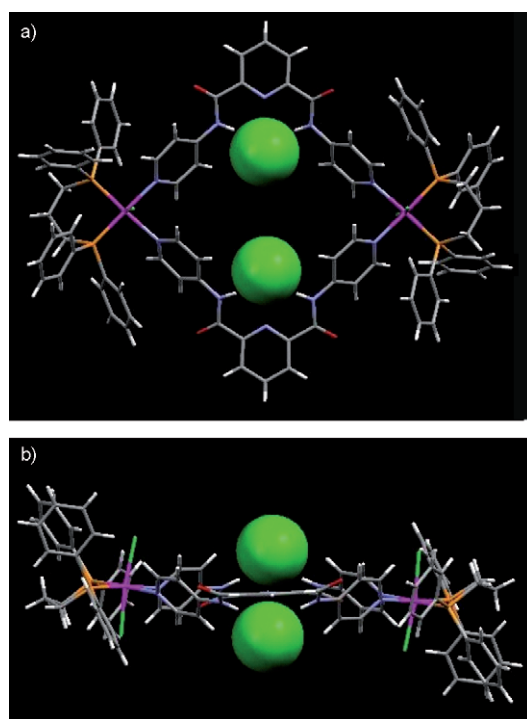
studies show that cross-peaks between  $\text{H}_d$  and the phenyl protons of DPPP might be an intermolecular spatial correlation based on the solid-state structure of **3**<sub>2</sub> because the intramolecular spatial correlation is too distal to be observed (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Partial NOESY spectrum of **3**<sub>2</sub>, and the intermolecular spatial correlation between  $\text{H}_d$  and phenyl protons (gray box).

More definite evidence of the self-complementary assembly of **3**<sub>2</sub> in solution was obtained by the following <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments: Upon addition of chloride anions, as the tetraethylammonium (TEA) salt, new peaks started to grow accompanied by a diminishment of the original peaks of **3**<sub>2</sub>, and the local C<sub>2</sub> symmetry of the terminal pyridine groups of **1** was re-established when six equivalents of TEACl were added (Figure 3b,c). In addition, these <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral changes are quite different from those observed by the variable-temperature <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments (see the Supporting Information), especially in the aromatic region.

When the homogeneous mixture of **3**<sub>2</sub> and eight equivalents of TEACl in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> stood for several days in a closed vial, the orange crystals could be obtained in good yield. Fortunately, this new species could be characterized by single-crystal X-ray structure determination and was the dissociation product of **3**<sub>2</sub>, the flattened monomer **3** with bound two chloride ions (Figure 5).<sup>[10]</sup> It is noteworthy that all Ru–Cl bond lengths are now almost identical (2.4054(17)–2.4070(15) Å) to those of **3**<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure 5.** X-ray structure of **3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. a) Top and b) side views. Purple = Ru, green = Cl, orange = P, red = O, blue = N, gray = C, and white = H. Two chloride anions are presented as a CPK model. Solvents, water molecules, and TEA cations are omitted for clarity.

Although a direct correlation between the solid structure of **3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and the major species observed in the mixture of **3**<sub>2</sub> and eight equivalents of TEACl by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy (see the Supporting Information) should be done carefully,<sup>[11]</sup> their relationship could be considered from two points of view: First, both species observed by X-ray crystallography and NMR spectroscopy

are each major products in the solid and solution states. Second, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3**<sub>2</sub> obtained by gradually addition of increased amounts of TEACl could be restored to the original spectra of **3**<sub>2</sub> by addition of NaBPh<sub>4</sub> (thereby causing elimination of NaCl) and successive simple shakings of the NMR tube at room temperature (Figure 3). In other words, it seems to be that the self-assembled structure of **3**<sub>2</sub> can be halved by the chloride anions in solution into the disassembled state, such as the structure of **3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and reassembled into the original structure of **3**<sub>2</sub> by eliminating the chloride anions. Such a reversible dissociation/association of self-assembled molecules by chemical stimuli is a potentially useful property in supramolecular chemistry.<sup>[12]</sup>

To assess the relative response of **3**<sub>2</sub> toward other anions, preliminary <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments were carried out by adding five equivalents of other kinds of TEA salts, and the intensity ratio of amide protons (H<sub>b</sub> and H<sub>c</sub> in Figure 3) was compared with that of the chloride. Complex **3**<sub>2</sub> showed a rather weak response to bromide and a very weak one to iodide, and there was no interaction at all with NO<sub>3</sub><sup>−</sup>, ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>−</sup>, BF<sub>4</sub><sup>−</sup>, and PF<sub>6</sub><sup>−</sup>. The relative strengths to dissociate **3**<sub>2</sub> into **3** were approximately 2 (Br<sup>−</sup>) and 200 (I<sup>−</sup>) times weaker than that of Cl<sup>−</sup>.<sup>[13]</sup>

In summary, we have shown a novel self-assembled dimer of Ru<sup>II</sup> metallamacrocycles with noncovalent interactions, including hydrogen bonding between the Ru–Cl and N–H bonds, and its reversible dissociation/association process, which can be selectively controlled by anions in solution. More detailed studies on the solution behavior of **3**<sub>2</sub> and its application in supramolecular chemistry are underway.

## Experimental Section

**Compound 3**<sub>2</sub>: Equimolar amount of ligand **1** (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol), [RuCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (**2**; 0.48 g), and DPPP (0.21 g) were suspended in acetone (200 mL) and stirred at room temperature. The initial brown turbid solution gradually turned to a clear orange. After 6 h, the solution was evaporated to dryness, and the residue was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) and filtered to remove any insoluble materials. *n*-Hexane (100 mL) was added to the filtrate. The resulting yellow precipitate was collected on the sintered glass, washed with methanol and *n*-hexane, and dried in vacuo to yield **3**<sub>2</sub> as a yellow–orange solid (0.39 g, yield = 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 9.8 (s, 2H, NH), 9.0 (s, 2H, PyH<sub>a</sub>), 8.6 (s, 2H, PyH<sub>a</sub>), 8.2 (d, 2H, PyH<sub>3,5</sub>, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 8.0 (t, 1H, PyH<sub>4</sub>, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.8 (s, 2H, PyH<sub>6</sub>), 7.2–7.1 (m, 12H, PPh), 6.7–6.4 (m, 8H + 2H, PPh + PyH<sub>6</sub>), 3.1 (br t, 2H, PCH), 2.2 (m, 1H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 2.0 (br s, 2H, PCH), 1.5 ppm (br s, 1H, PCH<sub>2</sub>CH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 125 MHz): δ = 163.0, 154.1, 151.9, 148.8, 144.7, 138.9, 137.6, 136.0, 134.5, 132.5, 128.9, 128.7, 127.2, 127.0, 126.6, 114.0, 27.8, 20.1 ppm; <sup>31</sup>P NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 202 MHz): δ = 38.2 (s) ppm; IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3055, 1700, 1580, 1511, 1421, 1336, 1210, 1125, 1092, 973, 836, 743, 696, 650, 514 cm<sup>−1</sup>; elemental analysis (%) calcd for C<sub>176</sub>H<sub>156</sub>Cl<sub>8</sub>N<sub>20</sub>O<sub>8</sub>P<sub>8</sub>Ru<sub>4</sub>: C 58.48, H 4.35, N 7.75; found: C 58.43, H 4.57, N 7.55. Single crystals of X-ray quality were grown by slow diffusion of *n*-hexane into the solution of **3**<sub>2</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

**Compound 3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 3462, 2956, 2919, 2356, 1695, 1593, 1516, 1419, 1342, 1219, 1135, 1004, 840, 748, 697, 533 cm<sup>−1</sup>; elemental analysis (%) calcd for



$C_{104}H_{118}Cl_6N_{12}O_4P_4Ru_2$ : C 58.40, H 5.56, N 7.86; found (after vacuum drying): C 58.37, H 5.62, N 7.91.

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- [8] Crystal data for **3**<sub>2</sub>:  $C_{88}H_{78}Cl_4N_{10}O_4P_4Ru_2$ ,  $M_r = 1807.42$ , monoclinic, space group  $C2/c$ ,  $a = 39.6773(5)$ ,  $b = 15.1882(3)$ ,  $c = 37.4826(6)$  Å,  $\beta = 115.3320(15)^\circ$ ,  $V = 20416.0(6)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 8$ ,  $T = 150(1)$  K. Refinement of 1009 parameters on 23 033 independent reflections out of 61 496 measured reflections ( $R_{int} = 0.0731$ ) led to  $R_1 = 0.0683$  ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ),  $wR_2 = 0.1793$ , and GOF = 1.006. CCDC-277154 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).
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- [10] Crystal data for **3**:  $C_{107}H_{126}Cl_{12}N_{12}O_6P_4Ru_2$ ,  $M_r = 2427.62$ , triclinic, space group  $P\bar{1}$ ,  $a = 10.8060(3)$ ,  $b = 14.8440(5)$ ,  $c = 19.6340(5)$  Å,  $\alpha = 75.8720(13)^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 74.5810(16)^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 88.5470(14)^\circ$ ,  $V = 2941.56(15)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 1$ ,  $T = 150(2)$  K. Refinement of 686 parameters with 73 restraints on 13 462 independent reflections out of 35 562 measured reflections ( $R_{int} = 0.0945$ ) led to  $R_1 = 0.0904$  ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ),  $wR_2 = 0.2535$ , and GOF = 1.060. CCDC-277155 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).
- [11] The single crystals were obtained from the homogeneous solution of **3**<sub>2</sub> and 8 equivalents of TEACl in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> after 4–5 days in 80–90% yields without any cosolvent. However, after spontaneous crystallization in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the crystals of **3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were almost insoluble in common organic solvents, including MeOH. The solubility problem made it impossible to obtain clear NMR spectra of **3**·2TEACl·H<sub>2</sub>O·2CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as a pure form. Similar difficulties were encountered during the <sup>13</sup>C NMR measurement of **3**<sub>2</sub> in the presence of 8 equivalents of TEACl because the long data-acquisition period and the limited volume of NMR solvent caused crystal formation of the **3**·2TEACl species.
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- [13] An organic dianion with an appropriate geometry, such as the terephthalate, can also change the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral features of **3**<sub>2</sub>. A full study on the relation between the shape of the dianions and the mode of interactions will be reported elsewhere. We greatly appreciate one of the referees for his/her kind suggestions about these experimental ideas. In the case of fluoride anions, irreversible decomposition of **3**<sub>2</sub> into an intractable product was observed.